

Libya pulls back troops from Tibesti

N'DJAMENA (R) — Libya has pulled its troops back from Chad's northwestern Tibesti mountains, apparently to shore up its defenses in a disputed desert strip close to their common border, diplomatic sources said Wednesday. They said Libyan soldiers had withdrawn from around the key oasis of Zouar and moved some 100 kilometres north across the mountainous terrain towards the Amouz strip, a swathe of territory along the Chad-Libyan border which Tripoli claims as its own. The 110,000 square kilometre stretch of desert north of the Tibesti mountains is the site of Libya's only remaining airstrip in Chad capable of handling heavy bombers and fighter planes. The area is expected to be the next objective in the Chad government's current offensive. President Hissene Habre rejects Libya's claims to the remote region and has pledged to oust all Libyan troops from it. (The Libyan news agency JANA denied again on Wednesday in a report monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation that Libya had any forces fighting in Chad). Habre, Gontoum to meet, page 2

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordanian Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية مستقلة تديرها المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية «الراي»

Jordan, Egypt exchange documents

CAIRO (Petra) — Jordan and Egypt on Wednesday exchanged documents ratifying a bilateral agreement on promoting tourism in both countries. The documents give official endorsement to the agreement which was initiated by the two countries in Amman in December 1986. Under the agreement, both countries will hold meetings for officials in charge of tourism to work out a general strategy on promoting tourist operations and joint tours and also to cooperate in promoting marketing tourist attractions. The agreement gives special emphasis on the role of national airlines in promoting tourism and calls for issuing joint tourist pamphlets and posters to back the tourism industry in Egypt and Jordan. They agreed to establish an investment company to operate in tourism by setting up tourist villages, spas and resorts specially in Sinai and Aqaba. The documents were exchanged at a ceremony here by Jordan's Ambassador to Egypt Hussein Hammami and Egyptian Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation Fuad Sultan. Mr. Hammami made a speech at the ceremony in which he said the agreement was one more step towards bolstering Jordanian-Egyptian relations.

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PSD continues traffic crackdown

AMMAN (Petra) — The Public Security Department (PSD) is continuing a crackdown on violations of traffic regulations and rules in a bid to reduce road accidents. A PSD statement said Wednesday. It said patrol units and police stations had started fining motorists who take wrong turns around road bends and tend to use signals at wrong times. The crackdown is part of a PSD's programme which started at the beginning of 1987. A total of 3,382 wrong overtaking violations were reported in the latter half of February in addition to other violations which reached 15,327 during the same period. During the period March 1-15 a total of 989 right-of-way violations were also made besides various other violations which reached 16,698 during the same period.

Egyptian team arrives

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation from the Egyptian Academy of Scientific Research arrived in Amman on Wednesday to discuss the implementation of a scientific protocol signed by Jordan and Egypt. The delegation members will be meeting with officials and scientists at the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) to discuss projects on which agreement has been reached. The delegation is led by Dr. Ahmad Sa'ad Dwidar, secretary general of the Egyptian Economic Science Academy.

2 SLA men hurt

TYRE (R) — Two Israeli-backed militiamen were wounded on Wednesday when a roadside bomb blew up near their patrol in South Lebanon, military sources said. One of the South Lebanon Army (SLA) militiamen was seriously hurt by the blast in Qantara village inside Israel's self-declared "security zone," the sources said. The explosion also damaged an armoured troop carrier.

Bank of Israel okays Pollard aid

TEL AVIV (AP) — The Bank of Israel has permitted a special transfer of \$150,000 in private aid to the family of convicted spy Jonathan Jay Pollard, a fundraiser said Wednesday. Amnon Dror, head of the "Citizens for Pollard" fundraising group, said he raised the money from Israeli citizens during a three-week period after the former U.S. navy intelligence analyst was sentenced to life in prison for spying for Israel. Dror said the money was transferred to Pollard's lawyer after the Bank of Israel granted his group special permission. Israeli law limits the amount of foreign currency that can be transferred out of the country to \$800 per individual.

Pakistan rejects Kabul claim

ISLAMABAD (AP) — The Foreign Ministry said Wednesday that an Afghan plane shot down by Pakistani fighters was a military aircraft, but did not rule out the possibility that it may have been a transport plane. A ministry spokesman rejected Afghan government claims that the plane shot down Monday was a civilian airliner.

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9 Palestinians die of hunger and lack of medicine in Shatila

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Nine Palestinian refugees, including four children, died Wednesday of hunger or the results of lack of medicine in Beirut's besieged Shatila camp, a Palestinian statement said.

The Palestine National Salvation Front (PNSF), an alliance of six Damascus-based groups, said "four children died of hunger today and five wounded Palestinians died due to the lack of medicine."

The statement said Shatila's 5,000 refugees appealed to "all the world and to international humanitarian organisations to support our people in demanding an end to the siege of refugee camps."

Militiamen of Justice Minister Nabih Berr's mainstream Shi'ite Amal movement have been blockading refugee camps in Beirut and South Lebanon for more than four months.

A Canadian doctor trapped in Shatila also appealed Sunday for international humanitarian help to "break the slow torture" of the besieged Palestinian refugees.

The PNSF statement said Amal and the Lebanese army's predominantly Shi'ite Sixth Brigade "destroyed 95 per cent of Shatila's shacks on the heads of their tenants."

"We expect more children, women and elderly men to die of hunger," said the PNSF statement.

One Palestinian woman was killed and three others were wounded Wednesday when Amal

snipers fired on them as they tried to leave south Beirut's Bourj Al Barajneh camp to get food, said the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP).

Amal partially eased its siege of Bourj Al Barajneh last month, after the camp's 20,000 refugees were reported to have eaten cats, dogs, rats and mules. It allowed women and children to shop for food in adjacent Shi'ite slums for three hours daily.

But Palestinian spokesmen say at least 26 women have been killed by snipers during the excursions and that essential food and medical supplies in the camps are scarce.

Some 150 Palestinian women in Beirut's smaller Mar Elias camp, which is not under siege, staged a demonstration Wednesday demanding an end to the "camps war."

About 500 Palestinian women organised a similar demonstration in the port city of Sidon, South Lebanon's provincial capital, 40 kilometres from Beirut, local reporters said.

The DFLP also reported three hours of overnight gunbattles and mortar bomb clashes with Amal fighters at the camps, but said there were no casualties.

Amal also said it had suffered no casualties in the battles.

OIC bid for peace in Gulf seen to founder

KUWAIT (Agencies) — An Islamic diplomatic initiative launched last month to try to end the 6½-year-old Iran-Iraq war appears to have foundered, diplomats said Wednesday.

The effort was announced on March 3 by Sharifuddin Pirzadeh, secretary-general of the 46-member Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) which held a summit meeting in Kuwait last January.

He said the emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, as current OIC chairman, would communicate with Iran and Iraq "so contacts can be made to create an end to the conflict."

Diplomats quoted by Reuters said there had been nothing to suggest any progress. Instead, it seemed that Iran, which rebuffed all past mediation bids and has vowed to fight on until the Iraqi

government was ousted, was at odds with Kuwait.

Iran boycotted the Islamic summit because of Kuwait's backing for Iraq in the war and has recently shown fresh signs of animosity towards the emirate, they said.

The director of political affairs at the Iranian foreign ministry, Mahmud Lavasani, visited Kuwait on Monday for talks which diplomats said apparently served to underline fractious relations.

Tehran radio said Tuesday the envoy expressed concern over "coercion" of Muslims in Kuwait. Diplomats interpreted this as a reference to a state security trial due to start on Saturday of 16 men, mostly Kuwaiti of Iranian origin.

They are charged with a series of bombings in Kuwait between last July and January.

Thatcher concludes Soviet visit with trip to Georgia

TBILISI (R) — British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, ending a five-day visit to the Soviet Union, flew to Georgia on Wednesday for sightseeing and talks with local leaders.

She was greeted on her arrival in the capital, Tbilisi, by Georgian Prime Minister Otar Cherkedia. A group of young people in colourful local costume presented her with roses and crowds lined her route from the airport to the city centre.

During her eight-hour stay in Tbilisi, Mrs. Thatcher was to attend a meeting of the Georgian government, visit the republic's arts museum, and go on a sight-seeing tour.

She had expressed a desire to visit one of the Soviet Union's 15 republics after her talks in Moscow and British sources said she was delighted with the choice.

Georgia, in the shadow of the towering Caucasus mountains which divide Europe from Asia, is bounded in the west by the Black Sea and in the east by Soviet Azerbaijan, and to the south-west it borders on Turkey.

An ancient land whose civilisation dates back 5,000 years, its location made it a crossroads for trade and its fiercely proud mountain people have retained their unique identity.

Georgia has been a proving ground for economic ideas used later elsewhere in the Soviet Union, largely thanks to Eduard Shevardnadze, the republic's former party leader and now Soviet foreign minister.

Mrs. Thatcher was to leave for London after a dinner given by Mr. Cherkedia, her host during her Georgian visit.

Earlier on Wednesday, Mrs. Thatcher met in Moscow with Soviet activist Josef Begun, who said the British prime minister had raised the problem of Soviet Jewry with Kremlin officials.

Mr. Begun, pardoned Feb. 20 from a seven-year prison term for anti-Soviet activities, and his wife, Inna, met with Mrs. Thatcher for breakfast at the British embassy.

After breakfast, Mrs. Thatcher was taken to the Grand Kremlin Palace for a farewell ceremony. She chatted a few minutes with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and his wife, Raisa, as Western reporters were kept at a distance.

The official TASS news agency said Mr. Gorbachev concurred when Mrs. Thatcher told the Soviet leader that she believed the two countries had made a big step towards developing a dialogue.

April fools advice

A piece of advice for all those who read yesterday's Jordan Times and consequently planned a picnic aboard a gondola in Amman with fish delicacies from the Dead Sea. We don't know yet of any solid plans to build a Venice-style canal in the Abdoun area or any other part of Jordan for that matter. By the same token, we are also sorry to disappoint those who believed fish could finally be bred in the Dead Sea. Both stories were jokes that we thought our readers would enjoy reading on April 1. Our thanks go to Italian Ambassador Luigi Amadei for his good humour and willingness to play the game with us this year.

Rightist leaders challenge Beirut airport reopening

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Hardline Lebanese rightist leaders on Wednesday challenged an announcement that Beirut's international airport, shut since Feb. 1, will reopen soon.

"There will either be airports for all Lebanon or no airports for anyone," Samir Geagea, chief of the mostly Christian right-wing "Lebanese Forces," militia told reporters.

Prime Minister Rashid Karami said Tuesday that the airport, on the southern edge of west Beirut, would reopen in a few days time.

The "Lebanese Forces" is pressing for the establishment of an alternative airport at Halat, in a Christian-dominated area just to the north of the capital, because many Christians are afraid to cross the "green line" into Beirut's mainly Muslim sector.

Lebanon's flag-carrier Middle East Airlines (MEA), as well as Soviet and East European airlines, suspended Beirut flights on Feb. 1 this year after the airport was hit by artillery shells.



CROWN PRINCE VISITS ARMY EXCHANGE: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Wednesday visits an automatic telephone switchboard centre for military camps in Zarqa. The Crown Prince is briefed on the new automatic telephone switchboard and the services it provides. Prince Hassan later toured various sections of the unit and inspected the progress of work. The

Crown Prince then visited the headquarters of the central wireless unit and was briefed on its tasks and duties. He also toured the main workshop, stores, the computer section and the Sharif Nasser Ibn Jamel military telecommunications college. Prince Hassan also visited an exhibition of wireless equipment and was briefed on the equipment on display (Petra photo).

Jordan enjoyed generous rains this winter

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Nature has been more generous with Jordan during this winter in terms of rains compared with the annual average, but the change was accompanied by a substantial decline in temperatures, according to a statement released by the Meteorology Department on Wednesday.

The statement said rains in March, compared to the same month last year, were much greater, and that the average temperature dropped by four degrees Centigrade last month.

The statement said evaporation levels also dropped in March with 19 rainy days in the northern part of the country and 14 days in the central and southern areas with an average increase of 10 days

(Continued on page 5)

Diplomats sceptical over report of Soviet-Israeli visits

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Foreign diplomats in Moscow expressed scepticism on Wednesday over a report from Tel Aviv that the Soviet Union had agreed with Israel to exchange visiting delegations.

The diplomats, who closely monitor Soviet policy in the Middle East, said they believed it was very unlikely that Moscow would accept an official Israeli visit in the near future.

There was no immediate comment from Soviet officials on the report, carried by Israeli Radio in an interview with Israel's Ambassador to Washington Meir Rosenne.

"There could eventually be visits in both directions, but certainly not immediately. And they would be unlikely to be synchronised," one diplomat with specialist knowledge of Soviet-Israeli relations said.

Although Moscow-based analysts agree there has been a definite move in Kremlin thinking towards reestablishing some links with Tel Aviv, they say major barriers remain.

In previous discussions, the analysts say, Israel has insisted that the Kremlin agree to accept an Israeli delegation in return for a consular delegation the Soviet Union wants to send to Israel.

Moscow argues that while it has legitimate consular business in Israel, where many Soviet citizens live and there is considerable property belonging to the Russian Orthodox Church, Israel has no similar interests in the Soviet Union.

"I do not believe the Soviet side would want to give in any way the impression that they are agreeing to the Israeli demand for reciprocity," the specialist diplomat said.

A meeting in Helsinki between Soviet and official representa-

Israelis impose curfew on camps and jail 5 Druze

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli authorities imposed curfews on two Palestinian refugee camps in the occupied West Bank on Wednesday after anti-Israeli demonstrators stoned vehicles and slightly injured two people, the army said.

A 22-hour curfew was imposed on Dheish refugee camp near Bethlehem after residents threw stones, damaging an Israeli bus and a mini-bus and causing the two injuries Tuesday night.

The Balata refugee camp near Nablus was put under a four-hour curfew for the second successive day after protesters burned tyres and stoned an army patrol.

On Tuesday, two Palestinians were shot and wounded by Israeli soldiers during protests in Balata.

The violence was a continuation of Monday's demonstrations marking Land Day, the eleventh anniversary of the deaths of six Arabs shot by Israeli soldiers on March 30, 1976 while protesting Israel's land expropriation policy.

In another development, an Israeli military court sentenced three Druze from the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights to 15 years imprisonment on Wednesday in a case stemming from alleged guerrilla activity in the

troubled area.

The court ruled that it found Malek Mohammad Abu Zalah, 23, Motia Wahabi Abu Zalah, 21, and Kanj Ismail Abu Zalah, 19, all from the village of Majd Al Shams, had stolen weapons from a nearby Jewish settlement and plotting attacks on Israeli forces.

The court found they took a missile, mortar bombs, firearms and ammunition from the farm settlement of Never Aviv last year and planned to attack Israeli forces during demonstrations and kidnap an Israeli soldier to gain the release of Arab prisoners.

In a separate case, the military court sentenced two other Golan Druze to shorter terms for alleged membership and activity in the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP).

Fahed Aref Sadi, 19, of Masa'da village, was given a nine-year term, of which 4½ years were suspended, for alleged unsuccessful attempted fire-bomb attacks on an Israeli military vehicle and a bus last October.

Mohammad Assad Kan'ana of Araba village was sentenced to three years, of which 1½ years suspended, for alleged membership of the PFLP.

(Continued on page 5)

Fate of Reagan's veto hangs in Senate balance

WASHINGTON (R) — The Senate sustained on Wednesday President Reagan's veto of an \$88 billion highway bill in what would be a major victory for Mr. Reagan, but the issue remained in doubt when Democrats sought a second vote.

Pending the outcome of the parliamentary manoeuvring, the Senate move put Mr. Reagan on the verge of a political triumph he had sought to show he is rebounding strongly from the debacle of the Iran arms scandal.

The House of Representatives had voted to override his veto on Tuesday, 350 to 73, but a presidential veto can only be overridden by a two-thirds majority in both chambers.

The first Senate vote on Wednesday ended with 65 members voting for the bill and 35 voting against.

Senate Democratic majority leader Robert Byrd of West Virginia immediately called for a second vote and it was not immediately clear how long it would take to resolve the parliamentary wrangling that ensued.

Asked about the vote as he left the White House for a speaking trip to Philadelphia, Mr. Reagan said, "I was very pleased, but it still isn't final."

The 65-35 margin of the first Senate ballot was actually only one vote short of the 37 needed to overturn Mr. Reagan's veto, because, in a parliamentary tactic, Mr. Byrd switched his vote at the last minute.

France gets little U.S. help on aid for Third World

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Pleas from French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac for urgent aid to world's poorest countries have elicited only a lukewarm response from Washington, French officials say.

Mr. Chirac was used his three-day visit to the United States to plead for a better financial deal for the debt-ridden Third World. He has warned of civil strife and an anti-Western backlash unless the rich countries curb what he calls their selfishness.

"If our countries fail to recognise their duties, they risk promoting upheavals in the Third World ... and leaving the field clear for extremist movements," he said at a State Department lunch.

Mr. Chirac sounded out President Ronald Reagan and Treasury Secretary James Baker on a plan to funnel the profits from grain sales to rich countries to the

starving in Africa, officials said Tuesday night.

The idea was presented recently by French Agriculture Minister Francois Guillaume to Pope John Paul, who gave it his blessing.

U.S. officials said Mr. Reagan did not have time to respond to the proposal, but they said the administration opposed the use of quotas, price fixing and production levels in the grain market.

On arms control, Mr. Reagan told Mr. Chirac on Tuesday the United States would insist in talks with Moscow on the right to install a force of shorter-range missiles in Europe equal to the Soviet Union's.

A senior U.S. official, briefing reporters on the two leaders' private talks, said Mr. Chirac responded to Mr. Reagan's assurances by saying, "We have confidence in you."

Egypt sets conditions for returning Libyan planes

MANSOURA, Egypt (R) — Egypt will not return two aircraft flown to its territory by Libyan defectors last month unless Tripoli hands back three detained Egyptians or says why it is holding them, President Hosni Mubarak said Wednesday.

He told reporters in the Nile Delta town of Mansoura that Egypt welcomed those who sought political asylum, indicating it had in effect granted sanctuary to the Libyan fugitives.

Five Libyan airmen, two officers and three sergeants, flew a C-130 Hercules transport plane to Egypt on March 2 and the two officers sought asylum.

Three more Libyans fled to Egypt in a Chinook helicopter last Sunday and asked to stay.

Egypt and Libya, its western

neighbour, have been at odds since the early 1970s and fought a border war in 1977. Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi is a harsh critic of Cairo's Middle East policy.

Mr. Mubarak's reference to three Egyptians held in Libya was not immediately clear. Journalists could not recall a case which fitted his remarks.

Mr. Mubarak also referred to the hijack of an Egyptian Boeing 737 airliner to Malta in November 1985, which Cairo blamed on

Libya. "Whoever comes here with his plane, what can I tell him... We don't want to keep anything or anyone," he said. "But they (the Libyans) have three Egyptians whom they must send back."

"They did that operation to the Egyptian aircraft in Malta, but still I will give back the two aircraft. But they must send them (the three Egyptians) back to us or tell us what they have done to them. Without this I will not send back the planes."

On granting asylum, Mr. Mubarak said: "Welcome to anyone who seeks asylum."

But he added, apparently referring to the three sergeants in the first group of Libyan fugitives: "Those who do not want



Hosni Mubarak

asylum can go."

Cairo has played the two defections in low key, apparently to avoid antagonising Libya at a sensitive time because of military reverses Tripoli's troops have suffered in Chad.

Mr. Mubarak's remarks, after an early morning tour of development projects, were the first confirmation that Egypt was granting asylum to the fugitives.

Habre, Goukouni to meet

KHARTOUM (AP) — President Hissene Habre of Chad and his chief rival have resolved their differences and will meet soon in the Chadian capital N'Djamena, a senior Chadian diplomat said Wednesday.

Charge d'Affaires Abbas Koty Yacoub told the Associated Press he has no details of the rapprochement between Habre and Goukouni Oueddei, a long-time enemy whom Mr. Habre ousted as president in 1983, but said: "Goukouni has reached a solution with the government, and he is due in N'Djamena shortly."

Meantime, the official Sudan News Agency (SUNA) reported that a reconciliation conference between Chadian factions is scheduled for the Algerian capital Algiers.

SUNA did not say when the conference will take place or who will attend. It said, however, that Ahmad Saad Omar, a Sudanese mediator between Chad and Libya, is due to leave Thursday for N'Djamena and Algeria to participate in the conference.

The agency said another high-level Sudanese delegation soon will travel to Libya for further mediation.

If true, the report of a Habre-Goukouni reconciliation would be a major development in the two-decades-long Chadian civil war.

Mr. Habre and Mr. Goukouni fought for years over leadership of the North African state until Mr. Habre took N'Djamena from Mr. Goukouni and Libya became directly involved with troops.

Libya's Col. Muammar Qaddafi supported Mr. Goukouni until the Chadian chief turned against Col. Qaddafi last year.

Although Tripoli denies that Libyan forces are in Chad, France and the United States say at least 11,000 Libyan soldiers are in the northern part of the country, part of which Col. Qaddafi claims is Libyan territory.

Last month, Sudan-organised low-level talks in Khartoum between Chad and Libya broke down on the first day. Chadian sources blamed the failure on Libya's insistence that the Chad problems involved only Chadians, claiming that there is no conflict between Libya and Chad.

U.S. 'would defend' interests in Gulf

KUWAIT (AP) — A U.S. National Security Council official was quoted as saying Washington would defend its interests and those of its friends in the Gulf region against Iranian threats.

In an interview with the Kuwaiti newspaper Al Anbaa in Washington, Robert Oakley, director of the National Security Council office on Near East and South Asian affairs, said President Ronald Reagan's administration had lost credibility in the Middle East because of clandestine arms sales to Iran.

He accused former President Jimmy Carter of "increasing the U.S. embarrassment by involving himself in controversial issues in the Middle East" during a tour which took him to Algeria, Egypt, Syria, Jordan and Israel.

Mr. Oakley did not say what particular aspect of Mr. Carter's contacts in these countries irked

the Reagan administration. "But he deplored a reported decision by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and His Majesty King Hussein to postpone visits to Washington till the U.S. administration decides on an international conference on peace in the Middle East."

"We are seriously considering the international conference on the Middle East as one of the best eventualities that could lead to direct negotiations," Mr. Oakley was quoted as saying.

Mr. Oakley said the Reagan administration was taking a number of steps to assure its friends in the Gulf that it was not favouring Iran and "to restore the lost credibility" over the arms supplies to the Persian state at war with Iraq since September 1980.

"The president is determined to stand by our friends, live up to our commitments, and do all we

can to deter an expansion of the Iran-Iraq war and bring it to an end," Mr. Oakley said.

Supportive steps included sending naval units to the Gulf following Iran's deployment of Chinese-made missile near the Strait of Hormuz and finalising arms deals to Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries after sounding out Israel and Congress, he said.

"We are also intensifying discussion with GCC states on military plans to deal with all eventualities including providing escort to ships if necessary against any threats to freedom of navigation in the Gulf," he added.

The GCC groups Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain and Oman, the southern Gulf Arab countries whose oil tanker routes are threatened by Iranian ship attacks in retaliation for Iraqi raids on Iranian maritime lanes.

Evren calls for dialogue with Greece, Bulgaria

RABAT (R) — Turkish President Kenan Evren has urged Greece and Bulgaria to negotiate a settlement of their disputes with Turkey through "a dialogue based on justice and equality," the official Moroccan News Agency MAP said Wednesday.

"We keep hoping for a favourable response to our appeals to find a solution of our problems through negotiations with Greece and Bulgaria," it quoted him as saying in a speech at a banquet given in his honour here Tuesday night by King Hassan of Morocco.

Gen. Evren said Turkey had "big problems" with Greece, but "they could be solved through dialogue in the framework of principles of justice and equality," MAP reported.

He made no direct mention of the latest crisis between the two countries over oil drilling rights in the Aegean Sea, which diplomats here said had now been defused. But he accused Greek Cypriots of having a "negative and intransigent attitude" and said the only way to achieve reconciliation on the divided island was for them to treat Turkish Cypriots on an equal footing.

"Islamic countries have an important task in developing their cooperation with Turkish Cyp-

riots," Gen. Evren added. He also accused Bulgaria of transgression over the position of the Turkish Muslim minority there, which he said was the victim of "oppression and assimilation," MAP said.

Gen. Evren deplored that "most international conflicts at present are between Islamic countries," including the Iran-Iraq war, which he said had become "the longest war in this century."

He said Turkey observed strict neutrality in the Gulf and sought an "honourable and durable" solution to the conflict.

He called for joint action by Arab and Islamic states to press for a Middle East settlement and national reconciliation in Lebanon.

King Hassan, in his speech, stressed the common interests of Muslim Turkey and Morocco, on the eastern and western ends of the Mediterranean, "at the meeting point between continents."

Gen. Evren left Rabat Wednesday for the central Moroccan city of Fez and is due to return to Ankara Thursday at the end of a four-day official visit, the first by a Turkish president to Morocco.

Thatcher refuses to talk about Israeli passport plot

LONDON (R) — A British member of parliament said Wednesday that Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher would not answer a question he tabled about an alleged Israeli plot to use forged British passports for covert operations.

Robert Adley, chairman of a British-Jordanian Parliamentary Group, said he had been told he would not be getting a reply to a question asking Mrs. Thatcher to state policy towards foreign governments "proven to have forged British passports for use by their agents."

Mrs. Thatcher's office told him the prime minister had referred the question to Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe, currently touring the Soviet Union with her.

Mr. Adley, a member of the ruling Conservative Party, said: "I am surprised and rather disappointed. I tabled this question because of an inadequate answer I received earlier from the Foreign Office on this subject."

"This fuels my suspicion that, as in other issues affecting Israel, double standards are applied. This operates in almost every instance including, it seems now, the forgery by foreign agents of British passports."

Britain protested to Israel last month after diplomatic sources said an Israeli plot had been uncovered involving the use of forged passports, apparently for spying purposes. This followed the discovery last year of eight forged British passports in West Germany.

Demjanjuk misses trial

TEL AVIV (R) — John Demjanjuk, accused of being the notorious Nazi death camp guard "Ivan the Terrible" was absent Wednesday from the courtroom for the first time in his seven-week trial because of a backache, his lawyer said.

Cell near the Jerusalem court while listening on earphones to a Ukrainian translation. "The trial was delayed for 45 minutes while Demjanjuk, 66, underwent a medical examination. Defence Attorney Mark O'Connor told the court that Demjanjuk was lying in his cell after receiving an injection for paralysis of the neck and back.

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19:40 News in Arabic
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic series
21:25 Varieties
21:45 Tomorrow's programmes
21:50 Arab Film
23:00 News Summary in Arabic
23:10 Film continued

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13:05 Pop Session
14:00 News Bulletin
14:05 News Music
14:30 Just a Minute
15:00 Concert Hour
15:00 News Summary
15:30 Interview
16:30 Old Favourites
17:00 The Musical in Review
17:30 Pop Session
18:00 News Summary
18:30 Special Feature
18:30 Music
19:00 Newsweek
19:30 Date with a Star
20:00 Evening Show
21:00 News Summary

21:05 Evening Show Contd.
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NEWS IN BRIEF

Tax department collects JD 3.8m

AMMAN (Petra) — The Income Tax Department has collected JD 3.8 million during the past month from various individuals and organisations, according to the department's director Salman Al Tarawneh. He said that his department collected JD 20 million in the first three months of this year, nearly 36 per cent of the total expected collection for this year. Tax payers, he said, normally benefit from discounts offered by the Income Tax Department if they pay their dues in the first three months of the year. He said that April 30 is the deadline for various organisations, companies and individuals to submit a statement about their income over the past year.

Week's road fatalities drop by 50%

AMMAN (Petra) — Five people died and 134 others were injured in Jordan as a result of road accidents that occurred in the past week, according to a statement issued by the Public Security Department (PSD) on Wednesday. The statement said that altogether there were 261 road accidents, registering a drop of 8.1 per cent over figures for the previous week and a 50 per cent reduction in the number of fatalities.

Dakhqan, leased TriStar arrive in Sudan

KHARTOUM (Petra) — Minister of Transport Ahmad Dakhqan has arrived in Khartoum and announced that Jordan is willing to extend further aid to Sudan in all fields. The minister who left Amman on board a Royal Jordanian airliner that has been leased to Sudan was accorded an official welcome by Sudanese officials who paid tribute to Jordan's aid to Sudan. Mr. Dakhqan, who will hold talks on promoting Jordanian-Sudanese relations, was also due to hand over the Lockheed-TriStar leased to Sudan Airways from Royal Jordanian in order to bolster Sudanese air transport operations. Royal Jordanian is providing crews of pilots, stewards, stewardesses and technicians to operate the plane throughout the lease mandate which is five years.

Omani trade minister due April 11

MUSCAT (Petra) — Omani Minister of Industry and Trade Salem Abdullah Al Ghazali will pay an official visit to Jordan on April 11 at the invitation of his Jordanian counterpart Rajai Mianaser. The Omani minister will be accompanied by a delegation of economists and other officials from the Omani Ministry of Trade and Industry. Omani sources here said that Mr. Ghazali will hold talks on the implementation of an Omani-Jordanian trade and economic agreement signed by the two countries last year. Among other things, this agreement provides for an exchange of visits by officials from both countries. The Omani minister's visit to Jordan is expected to last three days.

Committee discusses civil status law

AMMAN (Petra) — A special Arab committee entrusted with studying a unified Arab civil status law opened its meetings here Wednesday with the participation of delegates from 12 Arab countries. During its several days of meetings the committee will discuss the final version of the law for submission to the 5th conference of Arab justice ministers which will open here on April 11 under royal patronage. The committee has been formed by the Arab Justice Ministers Council.

Team to oversee study on poverty

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Labour and Social Development and chairman of the board of the National Aid Fund Khaled Al Haj Hassan has formed an advisory committee which will be charged with supervising the work of a technical committee studying poverty in Jordan. The technical committee will conduct a study on poverty pockets in the country and will suggest necessary policies and programmes within a year. The advisory committee will offer advice and consultancy services to the technical committee and will supervise its work. This follows Cabinet approval to allocate JD 70,000 to cover the costs of the study.

Mayor leaves for Damascus today

AMMAN (Petra) — Greater Amman Mayor Abdul Ra'ouf Al Rawabdeh leaves for Damascus on Thursday at the head of a Jordanian delegation to take part in the meetings of the 26th session of the Arab Cities Organisation, which will open on April 4. The four-day meetings will discuss means of bolstering existing relations between Arab cities as well as plans and programmes for improving public services in Arab cities. The organisation's achievements over the past year will also be discussed during the meetings.

Charity marchers begin long walk from north to south of Jordan

By Najwa Najjar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

RAMTHA — Amidst bustle and a flurry of excitement at Ramtha, the shot of a gun signalled the start of the first charity march across the Kingdom.

A red truck with a flashing light and the flag of march led the way, followed closely by a handicapped boy from Ramtha Club enthusiastically wheeling his chair. He was one of the 30 members of the Ramtha Club who signed up to accompany Vicken Dakessian, Ali Pharoan, and Halim Abu Rahme on the first part of their 420 kilometre walk to Aqaba.

Police closed off one lane of the main road in Ramtha as onlookers of all ages lined the street and children ran and jumped around the participants. Schoolchildren missed parts of their lessons as they gathered around the windows to catch a glimpse of the caravan of people, cars, buses and vans. No one wanted to be left out, even a little boy tried to walk as fast as his crutches would allow him.

Najat who works at Ramtha National Hospital told the Jordan Times that the locals had been waiting in anticipation for this event for the past three days. The hospital where the walk was to start had been decorated with red, black, white, and green flags, posters, and a bedouin tent (beit sha'er).

The grounds were crowded with boy scouts, boys from the cultural club of Ramtha dressed in dabkeh outfits, a school band, doctors, nurses, and many other locals by the time the principal walkers and organisers arrived. The head of the municipality of Ramtha and Vicken delivered short speeches before Akram Al Naser, the governor of Irbid, who was deputising for His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan started the walk at 10:20 a.m.

A few minutes after the walk began, Vicken said with a smile: "This is it, there is no way out. I just hope the spirit stays high throughout the trip." After three kilometres they were greeted by the first group of participants from the University of Science and Technology. After another three kilometres the remainder of the 36 who signed up from the university and four members of the youth centre in Irbid were dancing dabkeh as they waited.

The walkers will be accompanied by inhabitants of each village, town or city they pass through. However, none of the participants are sponsored except in the Amman stage because, according to a member of the Society for the Care of Neurological Patients, "it is too difficult to organise sponsorship forms in the Ramtha/Amman stage and the Amman/Aqaba stage since those who are sponsored must come to Amman to get receipts." Therefore, they will only pay the JD 3 participation fee and receive a T-shirt with the logo of the society for care of neurological patients.

Donations

It may be surprising to some to see the principal walkers not wearing the logo of the society for which they are trying to raise JD 50,000. The reason being that donations are made to the society when the walkers wear the logo of the company sponsoring them on that day. On the first day Vicken,



Participants in the first charity march across Jordan get under way from Ramtha on Wednesday (Petra photo)

Ali, Halim and Hassan Al 'Adin were sponsored by the Danish Dairy Company which paid JD 600 to the society. The following day they will be wearing T-shirts from Pizza Hut which has paid JD 300, and when they reach Amman they will have collected an additional JD 600 and will be wearing the National Insurance Company logo.

All the money collected by the sponsors of the main walkers and those taking part in the Amman stage and the fees of participants will go towards a fund to help needy neurological patients.

Not all donations were made in the form of money. The Plaza Hotel and the Housing Bank have contributed all the food and drink, made T-shirts, mugs and posters free of charge. Royal Jordanian has offered six tickets to various destinations to the six who raise the most money and Jordan Television has promised four minutes of nightly coverage. In return, their logos decorate the trailer towed by the red truck leading the walk.

Other than these four main sponsors, British Airways has offered an additional two air tickets and the society of radio amateurs has made communications easier by offering its wireless equipment for the walk. The trailer was loaned by a private citizen as was the truck pulling the trailer, and a truck with showers was made available to the walkers by the army. Safa, in addition to providing water, has also made a van ready for their use and Hanco tyres made 1,000 hats free of charge to protect the participants' heads from the heat.

Jordanian industries to exhibit products in Tunis

AMMAN (Petra) — The Trade Centres Corporation, Mr. Diab added. He said that the fair will consist of two wings; one for displaying the products and the second for direct sales to visitors.

The corporation has already sent out invitations to the Ministries of Tourism, Energy and Mineral Resources as well as Royal Jordanian airline, the Royal Scientific Society, the Jordan Valley Authority, the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company, the Arab Potash Company, the Jordan Fertilisers Industry Company and the Jordan Cement Factory Company to take part in the fair along with other businesses. Mr. Diab added.

Mr. Diab said that the corporation will start receiving samples as of April 25 which will be inspected by the committee to ensure that it is fair.

Mayors, local councils welcome step to ease loan repayments

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Youssef Hamdan has called a meeting on Saturday by heads of municipal and village councils for a general discussion on the councils' programmes following a set of government measures to improve the conditions of local councils.

The Cabinet on Tuesday announced measures which, among other things, exempt councils from paying interest on loans obtained from the Cities and Villages Development Bank and it rescheduled councils' loans to be paid over a 10 year period with a two year grace period in order to help these councils honour their commitments and carry out essential projects and services. The exemptions amount to nearly JD 8 million.

Announcing the meeting on Saturday, Mr. Hamdan said that the Cabinet decisions are bound to help improve the councils financial and administrative situations and will no doubt boost their activities and promote their programmes for local inhabitants. During the meeting on Saturday, the minister said that the objectives of these government measures and the administrative arrangements for their implementation will be discussed. The role of local councils in implementing projects included in the five-year plan will also be discussed at the meeting, the minister said.

The government measures have been enthusiastically welcomed by mayors and heads of municipal and village councils in the Kingdom. Many described the move as aiming at achieving a balance in development in all regions of the country and enabling local councils to carry out essential projects and services in their respective regions.

Mr. Badri Bahaudin, chairman of the Zarqa Municipality committee, said that the new measures are bound to provide local councils with the required help enabling them to honour their commitments and promote their services to the public.

Dr. Abdul Razzaq Tubeishat, the mayor of Irbid, expressed appreciation for the government's measures and said they would contribute towards promoting local councils' services. The new measures were essential for boosting the work of these local councils following a period of inactivity due to a lack of funds, Dr. Tubeishat said.

Contractors to review plans, achievements

By a Jordan Times
Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Jordan Contractors Association's (JCA) general assembly will hold a meeting Friday to review the institutions' achievements and future plans. Friday's meeting is also the first general gathering since the election of the association's two-year council last year.

Todays 400 companies are registered at the JCA. According to official figures, the total registered paid up capital of all classified contractors today is JD 100 million.

An amount of JD 353 million in credit facilities was extended to the local construction sector last year, amounting to 26 per cent of the total credit facilities for the year.

Fifty five thousand labourers were employed by the sector in 1986, out of which 11 per cent were Jordanians.

According to the JCA's annual report, the contracting sector last year contributed 9.5 per cent to the gross national product (GNP).

Since the election of the new JCA President Ali Abu Al Ragheb and the association's council, numerous measures have been taken to upgrade the sector's activities and protect local contractors from foreign competition.

Most important was the 1986 JCA law which was endorsed by Parliament two months ago. The legislation provided an institutionalised framework to control the activities of local and foreign contractors working here and provided penalties for all violations.

Before this law, the JCA's activities were governed by a 1966 Labour Ministry regulation and contractors were registered as members of the Jordan Engineering Association.

Hindawi calls for closer coordination in education

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Education Thouqan Al Hindawi said Wednesday that a recent reassessment of educational policies in Jordan has shown that there had been a lack of cooperation and coordination between different departments of the Ministry of Education.

Mr. Hindawi, who was speaking at a meeting with heads of various departments of the Ministry of Education, said that the educational system in Jordan cannot be shouldered by one department or institution. "Thus, we have to start laying the basis for cooperation and coordination among various departments in order to achieve a higher and a more sophisticated standard of education in the country," he said.

The minister also called for "closing loopholes in the educational system in the country." Over the last week Mr. Hindawi has made changes in the ministry

which were believed to be aimed at starting a new and more effective educational policy. The changes included a decision to retire 28 ministry officials and the appointment of a new secretary general to the ministry. Dr. Radi Al Waqfi, who served as director of education in Ajloun, has succeeded Dr. Ahmad Al Bashairah as the new secretary general of the Ministry of Education.

There were no details available on the reasons which led to the recent changes but during Wednesday's meeting the director general of education said that a new plan has been endorsed to improve the educational system in the country.

He said that the plan was based on recently completed field research which pointed out that there was a need to strengthen the link and cooperation between the ministry and the various departments and educational institutions in the country.

Ajloun hospital reopens under government administration

AJLOUN (Petra) — The Baptist Hospital in Ajloun, recently purchased by the Health Ministry, was officially re-opened Wednesday by Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh during a ceremony in which he declared that the hospital will offer better medical services to the inhabitants of Ajloun district.

The government bought the hospital for JD 500,000 within its efforts to promote health services in the country. It will be one of five hospitals which the government plans to open in different areas of the Kingdom which lack hospital services, the minister added.

Under the previous administration, the Baptist Hospital used to have a 35 per cent occupancy rate because it was a private hospital but under government manage-

ment the same hospital is expected to have a 100 per cent occupancy and benefit a larger sector of the population. Dr. Hamzeh said. Dr. Hamzeh paid tribute to hospital staff who have been employed there for 30 years.

Addressing the ceremony was Mr. Salman Al Qudah, Parliament deputy from Ajloun district, who expressed appreciation to the Health Ministry for promoting health services in Ajloun constituency.

The hospital is fully equipped and has wings for internal and children's diseases and an emergency section. According to Health Ministry officials, the hospital will soon be expanded to include other services. Towards the end of the ceremony the minister distributed medals to veteran staff members.



THE ART OF FLOWERS: At "The Gallery" in the Jordan Intercontinental Hotel this week is a delightful exhibition of Rita Ghul's pictures made of dried flowers. Using both wild and garden flowers, which she dries and presses herself, Mrs. Ghul arranges the different petals and leaves into both classical and abstract compositions. With skill and patience, Mrs. Ghul has enhanced the flowing lines of her designs with the subtle shape and shades of the flowers. Hung in attractive groups or sets, the display is completed with vases of fresh spring flowers and books related to various floral and garden topics. The exhibition runs until April 9th.

Hindawi opens cultural event within national book week

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Education Thouqan Hindawi on Wednesday opened Jordan's national book week with a cultural festival held at the Princess Alia School in Amman. The festival was organised by the Department of Libraries, Documentation and National Archives (DLDNA), which is organising other activities for the week in various parts of the Kingdom.

At the outset of the festival, Mr. Tayseer Arafat, director of the Ministry of Education's educational activities and students affairs department, made a speech in which he outlined the importance of reading for increasing knowledge and for education. Reading plays an essential role in the formation of personalities and therefore the Ministry of Education attaches great hope to school libraries to achieve that goal, Mr. Arafat said.

DLDNA Director General Ahmad Sharaka said that the week-long activities manifest the country's keenness on maintaining national culture and heritage. Towards the end of the ceremony, the minister distributed awards and gifts to students who won a reading competition.

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Where's the fillip?

EFFORTS at shoring up British-Soviet bilateral relations apart, Mrs. Thatcher's visit to Moscow does not seem to have broken new grounds, or to have allayed European security concerns, spawned by the Zero Option, currently under negotiation between the two superpowers. Though the Zero Option was the brainchild of NATO, the Europeans now see a few disadvantages in accepting it. The main concern is that short-range Soviet nuclear weapons, such as the SS-22 and SS-23, outnumber NATO's armory by the ratio of 9 to 1; the Zero Option thus would put Europe in no small danger. The Europeans also fear that the elimination of intermediate range nuclear missiles would weaken the U.S. commitment to defend Europe. Moreover, it could also lead to a reduction in U.S. servicemen in Europe, now numbering 350,000. Therefore the West Europeans want short-range weapons to be included in any U.S.-Soviet deal to remove intermediate range missiles from Europe.

Mrs. Thatcher, it seems, was at pains to broach this matter with Mr. Gorbachev, who does not appear to have been impressed by her position.

Mr. Gorbachev is aware that both Britain and France have their own independent deterrent forces which they will not relinquish for the foreseeable future; he could very well argue that the Soviet advantage in short-range weapons is offset by the independent deterrent forces of Britain and France. However, much haggling will no doubt ensue before the Zero Option proposal can become a treaty.

From the reiteration of her belief in nuclear deterrence, her strong support for President Reagan's "Star Wars" programme, and her view that differences between Britain and the Soviet Union remain over intermediate range weapons, one gets the impression that Mrs. Thatcher has not in fact added any fillip to the process of arms control. This does not necessarily mean that Mrs. Thatcher has put the Zero Option on the backburner. But, at the same time, it is not clear whether or not her talks with Mr. Gorbachev have helped her in vigorously pursuing the Zero Option. It would seem that a successful arms control treaty between the two superpowers embodying the Zero Option proposal will greatly depend on what Mrs. Thatcher has to say in the coming days to U.S. President Reagan and the NATO allies after her just-ended visit to the Soviet Union.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Rai: Strengthening local councils

THE government has just announced measures intended to support municipal and village councils in the Kingdom to enable them to carry out their duties towards citizens. These councils which have failed to live up to people's expectations lacked the funds for implementing public and municipal services; and the government's decision which cancelled interest on the loans obtained by these councils is bound to help them resume their duty. The government has in addition requested that all ministries should not request local councils to purchase or build schools, health centres or other installations from their own means but rather to carry out these projects from the ministries' own funds. This too would help make available sufficient funds for the local councils to spend on services. The new government decision will no doubt have far reaching positive effects on the social and economic life of the towns and villages and ease the burden on municipal and village councils. The decision also reflects the government's keenness on distributing the benefits and the services equally among the various sectors of the population. The decision is bound to help the country implement regional plans designed to strike a balance in the development of all regions of the Kingdom. The government has acted upon directives from King Hussein and recommendations of a special ministerial committee charged with finding means of helping local councils resume their good services to the Jordanian citizens. Had the cabinet not appointed this committee to investigate the conditions of the councils no such decision could have been taken, and no benefits would have reached the people of various towns and rural regions.

Al Dustour: Helping local councils

THE cabinet, acting upon directives from King Hussein has decided to extend help to 174 municipal councils and 375 village councils in the Kingdom. The assistance takes the form of cancelling interest on loans these councils may have obtained from the Cities and Villages Development Bank or government departments. Once interest on loans has been cancelled, the councils will have sufficient funds for carrying out public services in their respective regions. The interest on loans seemed to have constituted a heavy burden on the local councils which failed in their duty towards their citizens. The cabinet decision was wise, and came in time for easing the financial burdens on local councils, thus enabling them to resume their duty. The government's decision to reschedule the loans, which these councils have obtained from the bank, is also bound to boost the capacity of these councils and enable them to re-organise their work in a manner to meet their commitments while at the same time carrying out various projects and municipal services. The government's decision no doubt came as a result of a careful study of the situation, and the difficulties they have been encountering. The government decision can be regarded as a genuine contribution towards promoting the work of local councils in the country.

Sawt Al Shaab: Sound decision

MUNICIPAL and village councils in Jordan have a serious responsibility towards promoting economic and social sectors in their regions and therefore, the government has taken a number of decisions to enable these councils to shoulder their responsibilities. A total of 549 municipal and village councils are bound to benefit from a government decision of cancelling the payment of interest on loans that may have been obtained from the Cities and Villages Development Bank. This decision is clearly aimed at reducing the financial burdens of these councils, thus helping them to offer better services and carry out essential projects.

Muslim Brotherhood campaigns for Islamic state in Egypt

By Nejla Sammakia
 The Associated Press

CAIRO, Egypt — Posters and streamers throughout Cairo proclaim: "Islam is the solution, so let's get to work."

The election campaign slogan appears incongruous in Egypt, where basing a political party on religion is illegal. But it sums up the programme of the outlawed Muslim Brotherhood.

The Brotherhood has tried to achieve political respectability by moderating its policies and by running for parliament on the ticket of a legal opposition group, the left-of-centre Socialist Labour Party.

The April 6 election for the people's assembly has brought new hope to the Brotherhood, which hopes to win about 40 seats in the 458-member parliament. It held nine under the banner of the rightist New Wafd Party in the parliament that was disbanded in February.

More important to the Muslim faithful, such a result would give impetus to the Brotherhood's

drive to implement Sharia, Islam's 1,300-year-old legal and ethical code.

Sharia already forms the basis of most Egyptian law. However, fundamentalists want it to be the only source of law. They want to modify the 10 per cent of the penal and civil codes the government acknowledges are at variance with Islamic practices.

Sharia also would change the banking system to abolish interest rates and, depending on judicial interpretations, could allow amputating thieves' hands and the stoning of adulterers.

But as long as President Hosni Mubarak's secular National Democratic Party retains its dominance in parliament, the fundamentalists' goal of transforming Egypt into an Islamic state is unlikely to materialise.

The push for Sharia in the previous parliament was sent to committee for further study. Sponsors saw the move as a delaying tactic by the ruling National Democratic Party, which held 390 of the 448 elected seats in the

previous chamber and is widely expected to dominate the next one.

To consolidate their efforts to make Egypt an Islamic state, the Brotherhood, the Socialist Labour Party and the smaller rightist Liberal Party set aside basic ideological differences to forge the "Islamic Alliance."

"We have recorded, for the first time in Egypt's history, an alliance in the name of Islam," Liberal Party head Mustafa Kamel Murad declared at a rally in an affluent Cairo suburb.

"There must be Sharia, or else there will be ruin," Mohammad Maamoun Al Hudeiby, the son of former Brotherhood leader, told the 500 people at the rally.

In addition to the National Democratic Party and the Alliance, the election is being contested by the New Wafd, the pro-Soviet National Unionist Progressive Party and the tiny Umma Party, which also advocates an Islamic state.

Bright blue posters with a white star, symbol of the Socialist

Labour Party, appear at street corners with promises by Brotherhood candidates of a better life in an Islamic state. "Let the flags of Islam rise and the flags of injustice fall," read one.

The Brotherhood was accused in 1954 of masterminding an attempt on the life of President Gamal Abdul Nasser. This triggered a ban on the organisation and a massive crackdown in which thousands of members were jailed and six leaders were tried and hanged.

The ban remains on the books, but since the mid-1970s, when Nasser's successor Anwar Sadat freed most Brotherhood members, the organisation has eschewed violence in its drive for Sharia.

"The Brotherhood does not believe in extremism or violence, nor in the use of force to bring about social change. They are committed to the Islamic method based on calling to the people through preaching Islam," Muslim Brotherhood spokesman Gaber Rizk said at a recent news

conference. "We have had experience over 50 years... Great experiences and we now employ reason, not revolt," said Hassan Al Gamal, a prominent Brotherhood member running for parliament.

The new alliance also may serve as a marriage of convenience designed to help the Socialist Labour Party win more than 8 per cent of the national vote, the minimum required for representation in parliament.

The party failed to get the minimum in the 1984 election. But Mubarak, who appoints 10 members of parliament, gave seats to Socialist Labour Party Chairman Ibrahim Shukry and three of his followers.

The Brotherhood fielded 15 candidates on the New Wafd ticket in 1984, and nine won seats. This time, the Brotherhood has 53 candidates and hopes to win 40 seats.

The Brotherhood was founded in 1928 by the puritanical Egyptian Hassan Al Banna, and was first called "The Society Against

Sinners." It later joined the national struggle against British occupation, which ended in 1956.

The government accused the Brotherhood of engineering the 1948 assassination of Prime Minister Mahmoud Al Nokrasly, and of embracing violence and terror to achieve its aims. Al Banna was killed in Feb. 1949, and the Brotherhood blamed his slaying on the British-controlled government.

Nasser's crackdown on the group and the reported torture of Brotherhood prisoners spawned some extremist splinter groups, however, and they remain independent of the parent group.

Rizk, Al Gamal and other Brotherhood members repeatedly have said the Brotherhood is not connected to the smaller groups and that it is against the violent extremism displayed by some of them.

"We could have a role," said Rizk. "If the government would give us a legal existence, we would be able to contain these extremists."

U.S. walking tightrope between Greece, Turkey

By Charles Aldinger
 Reuters

WASHINGTON — With NATO U.S. security at risk in the Mediterranean, the United States is treading warily in the latest dispute between feuding Greece and Turkey, Reagan administration officials say.

"There is no doubt that tensions are high between Ankara and Athens. We are caught in that by virtue, or curse, of our foreign aid to both allies and by the control that Congress has over that aid," one official told Reuters.

Said another: "Any military conflict between two Mediterranean allies could be devastating for NATO and the United States, not only because of military bases but because of perceptions of Western solidarity."

"The key for us is impartiality — to let each know that we don't favour the other and that we encourage strong ties with them and between them. We hope they can settle their problems over Cyprus and in other areas."

The latest standoff between Greece and Turkey over Aegean Sea oil rights appeared to ease over the weekend.

But the oil dispute, and the

controversy over Turkish military occupation of part of Cyprus since 1974, remain.

Athens has accused Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger and other U.S. officials of favouring the occupation and of giving too much military aid to Turkey.

At one point during last week's crisis, Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu threatened to close a U.S. navy communications facility near Athens, one of over a dozen American military facilities in Greece and Turkey.

"Our bases in the region are important. Turkey and Greece are a key part of NATO's southern rim," one senior Defence Department official said. "We do not in any way want to exacerbate the problems between them."

Weinberger paid a four-day visit to Turkey two weeks ago and promised Defence Minister Zeki Yavuzturk and senior officials that the administration would push Congress to approve \$913.5 million in overall aid, including \$788.5 million in military help, requested for Turkey in fiscal 1988.

In the current fiscal year, Turkey is receiving \$593.3 million, all

but \$100 million of that in military aid.

The administration is seeking \$436.3 million in aid for Greece, all of it military, in fiscal 1988. That compares to \$344.3 million, all of it military, in the current year.

But Congress, faced with budget-cutting problems at home, wields control over foreign aid funds and Weinberger told the Turks there was no way to guarantee the final results until lawmakers vote later this year. Pentagon officials told Reuters

earlier this month that the administration will inform Congress soon that it plans to give 40 surplus F-4E Phantom jets to Turkey and more than 40 slightly less-sophisticated Phantoms to Greece.

Those would be outright gifts

under a law allowing the Pentagon to provide surplus military supplies to Greece, Turkey and Portugal on the Atlantic alliance's southern flank.

Some private U.S. analysts say other Western European nations need to take a more active role in crisis management involving Greece and Turkey, which guards the narrow passageway through which Soviet warships pass from the Black Sea into the Mediterranean.

"The fact is that the United States has lost leverage in both Greece and Turkey in recent years — in Greece because of political changes and some hostility toward Washington from the Socialists and in Turkey because Congress keeps cutting back administration aid requests," said Simon Serfaty, executive director of the Johns Hopkins Foreign Policy Institute in Washington.

"Perhaps it is for the Europeans to shoulder a greater share in helping those two to settle their problems," he said, noting Greece was now a member of the European Community and that Turkey was planning to push for membership.



Jesse Jackson, the 2nd time around

By Jonathan Wolman
 The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — As the race begins for the 1988 presidential nominations, Jesse Jackson is carefully smoothing some of the rough edges that characterized his surprisingly strong campaign three years ago.

The improvements are meant to correct the disorganization that dogged Jackson in his unsuccessful bid to win the 1984 nomination of the opposition Democrats. "This is the second time around," Jackson's spokesman, Frank Watkins, said last week. This time, "we know what's required. We know deadlines and dates... We'll be a more organized campaign."

Jackson is paying attention to the sort of details that eluded the 45-year-old black civil rights activist and his advisers in 1984: He's courting party regulars, his speeches are sharper, and his scheduling is less likely to leave an audience waiting two hours for another late arrival.

He is even giving homage to the traditional image of a prospective candidate sitting on a fence, refusing to say officially that he is a candidate.

Asked if Jackson is running, Watkins will say, "he's simply weighing that decision at this time, taking family considerations and financial support into account."

In the meantime polishing of the Jackson campaign is under way.

This time around, Jackson isn't orchestrating a fake draft, in which a party nominates or drafts a candidate who has not run officially. There have been none of the "Run, Jesse, run" appearances that preceded his first race.

Instead, he is going the professional route, opening an "exploratory committee" last week to raise funds in advance of his official announcement.

Jackson told an Associated Press reporter in Iowa in January that he thought the disarray of 1984 was inevitable.

"We had no money, and we had no one around with campaign experience. We had no one who could coordinate the secret service and the press corps. We had no one who could charter an airplane."

"You can assume we've

learned some things. You can assume growth and maturity, personally and organizationally."

Recently, Jackson — surely one of the best speakers to seek the presidency — has been tailoring many of his speeches to a specific audience. He has focused on a single theme, rather than giving spontaneous versions of the same wide-ranging speech. Many speeches are now delivered from a text, standard for most politicians but eschewed until recently by Jackson.

At West Point, he talked military policy. He said the United States needs a strong military directed by an overall foreign policy strategy. In Atlanta, he urged national spending of \$25 billion for education, several billion more than proposed by the administration of President Ronald Reagan.

In the farm State of Iowa, opening a campaign headquarters in rural Greenfield, he developed what has been his strongest theme of winter — the threat of "economic violence."

"Let's not confront each other at Howard Beach (New York) or Forsyth County (Georgia)," he said. "The real fight is the farm foreclosures, the plant closings, the missile sites and the shipyards where foreign goods that put our workers out of jobs enter the country."

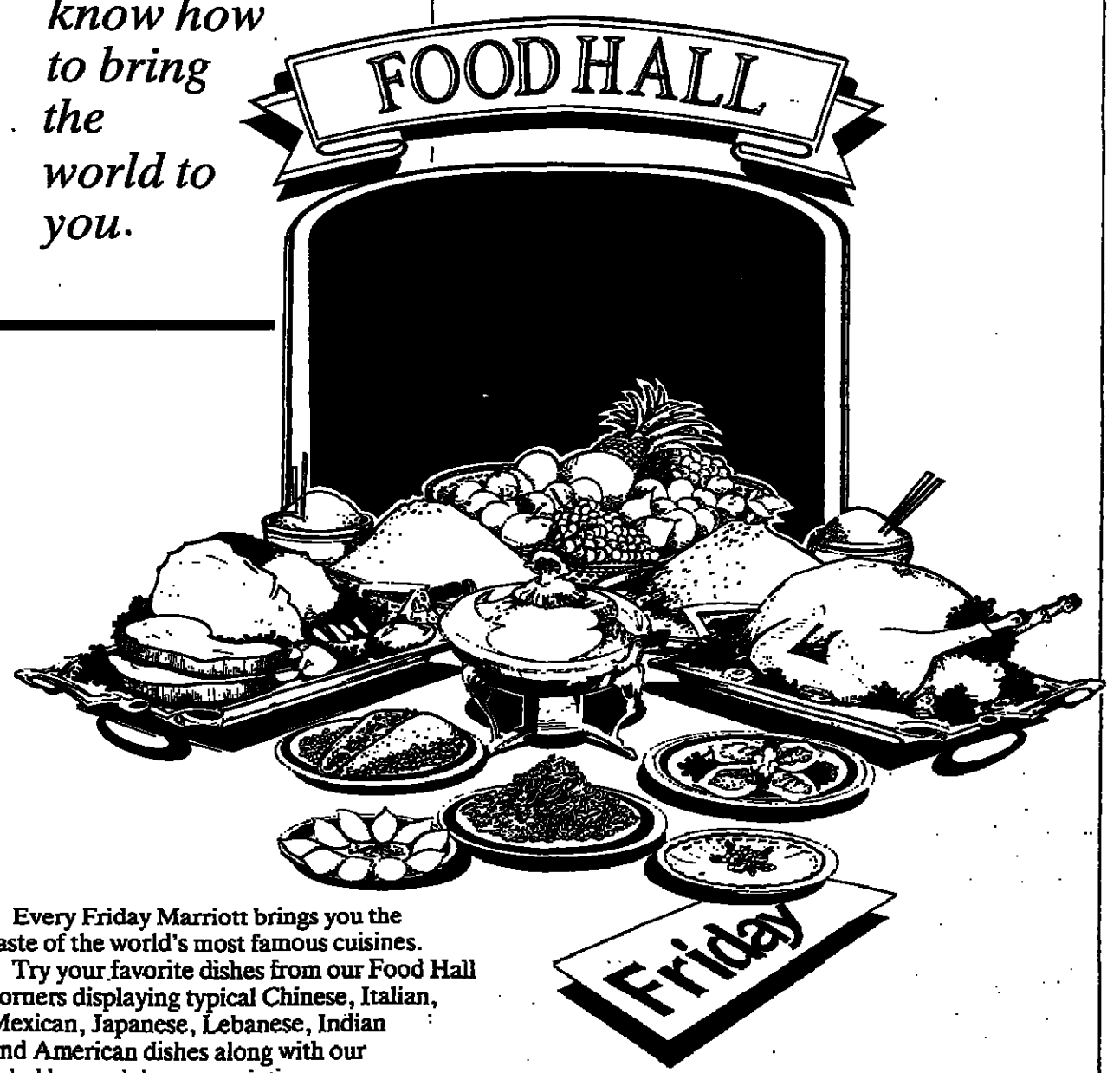
He proposed that 10 per cent of the nation's pension funds be invested in a series of housing, development, transportation and farm programmes.

It was Jackson's second big trip into Iowa — the first in the nation caucus state he practically ignored in 1984. This early courtship of Iowa Democrats is interesting in itself — after all, Jackson has no natural constituency in the state, which has only about 45,000 blacks.

The Iowa effort is part of straightforward attempt by Jackson to broaden his base and make the rainbow coalition come true. Of course, organisational improvements or not, Jackson is running for president with a style all his own.

Last week, for example, Jackson was into an "economic violence" speech when he repeated a 1984 tactic and called unregistered voters out of the crowd to the front of the auditorium to be signed up.

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Egypt: Centuries-old crafts threatened by mass-produced imitations

By Dalia Baligh
The Associated Press

CAIRO, Egypt — With an iron hammer and nail, Aly Mohammad bends over a copper plate and painstakingly engraves a portrait of Queen Nefertiti.

Working in his room, located in a maze of narrow stone corridors and staircases more than three centuries old, Mohammad may take four days to finish one

piece that will sell for 30 pounds (\$18.70).

A few doorways away, young men use acid and molds to produce 500 almost identical plates each day. These pieces, instant imitations of Mohammad's painstaking work, will be sold at three pounds (\$1.80) each.

Mohammad belongs to a dying breed of artisans in the 600-year-old Khan Al Khalili souk, a market renowned for its beautiful

crafts. Although not as famous as the Giza Pyramids, the souk is nearly as popular with tourists and few pass through Cairo without visiting the market.

But now, lovers of handmade goods say the souk is changing. Traditional craftsmen are finding it hard to compete with the onslaught of mechanisation into Khan Al Khalili and the quest for quick profit.

"There are very few craftsmen who have guarded their art," said Mohammad, who has been engraving brass and copper for 33 years. "Today, the young want to make money quickly without much work."

Khan Al Khalili, meaning Al Khalili's market, originated as a guest house built in 1392 by Gharas Al Khalili, a senior officer under Turkish Sultan Barqut. It was a stopping place for pilgrims to the nearby Al Hussein Mosque.

Thousands of Muslims annually make pilgrimages to the mosque, where the head of the grandson of the Muslim prophet

Mohammad is believed to have been buried in 1153.

Over the centuries, "The Khan" was turned into a bazaar that today contains about 1,000 shops and almost 5,000 workshops.

Tourists walking through its dark, narrow corridors still catch glimpses of a traditional Turkish life. But the sense of a bygone age is quickly dispelled by whistled offers of "change money, change dollar" from black marketeers.

"Today, lots of the bazaars are owned by dealers in the money black market and drug dealers. There is even an electrician who owns one now," said 49-year-old Michael George Tewfik, who talked as he put the final touches on a pearl-and-gold necklace.

"What do they know about handicrafts?"

Tewfik said he has read extensively about jewelry throughout Egypt's history and bemoaned the quality of the gold pieces glittering in Cairo's shop windows.

"In some shops, you can find a

pharaonic cartouche with Islamic inscriptions inside," said Tewfik, who explained that the oblong seals are supposed to be inscribed with the names of pharaohs written in hieroglyph.

"Whether I am working with silver and gold or clay beads, I make sure a Coptic (Christian) necklace is made in the true Coptic design and a pharaonic necklace is a true copy of what the pharaonic queens wore."

Tewfik designs the piece, then uses experienced hands and a few simple tools to turn flat sheets and thin coils of gold into necklaces and bracelets of intricate design.

Tewfik no longer shows his pieces in the bazaars because, he said, other shopkeepers copy his models and make rough imitations with molds, which they then sell more cheaply. Although some care about the quality of the merchandise, most care more about the profit.

"Today they are workmen, not craftsmen," he said.

Many of the craftsmen strain their eyes working with the tiny,

detailed handicrafts.

"A craftsman in my workshop usually works until he is 30, but after that he can no longer perfect the small details," said Mustafa Hafez, who owns a workshop specialising in wooden boxes inlaid with bone and mother-of-pearl in Islamic designs.

"They used to make these boxes of ebony, with real ivory and mother-of-pearl, but today we make it with beech, with bone and plastic and sometimes mother-of-pearl," he said.

Although he still makes a few special boxes, Hafez said, his workshop mass-produces most of its products, which sell more quickly because they are cheaper.

Hafez said that many craftsmen, confronted with the changing economics and mechanisation in the souk, turn to the more profitable but less artistically satisfying work.

"After our generation dies, there will be no one else to continue our tradition," said Hafez, who has been in the business for 39 years. "Mechanisation will have won."

Randa Habib's
Corner

April fools

IT would be really nice to have a taste of Venice right here in Amman. Just imagine the gondolas moving softly on lake-Abdoun, with Jordanians rowing and couples enjoying the romantic site...

Unfortunately it was only an April fool, and I hope once again, that you are not mad at me. The story was signed with my married name, not familiar to most of you, and thus I wasn't the one to answer your calls this year.

But, at the Italian Embassy on Wednesday, work was disrupted as the telephone was ringing all day. Readers of the Jordan Times were calling and enquiring for more details about the "project".

Some proposed their services for manufacturing gondolas here in Amman, offering their services to save the contractors the trouble and the cost of shipping them from Italy. It wouldn't be a bad idea. After all, manufacturing gondolas in Amman may help save our national wood factory.

Others, mainly contractors, called the Italian Embassy showing great interest in the project and offering their services. A leading international construction company contacted its representative in Amman and advised him to try and convince the Jordanian Government that they were ready to execute the same project, quicker and at a lower cost.

Finally the joke of the Jordan Times made many "one-day-happy people" who live near the "lake". Some were happy to be the lucky people who will enjoy the site of the lake daily. Others started calculating the profits they would make as prices of their properties soar.

Well, a dream, even a short-lived one, is better than nothing.

Eye complaint 'an AIDS symptom'

By Konrad Muller-Christiansen

BERLIN findings confirm an American doctor's claim that an eye complaint known as cotton wool spot is an early AIDS symptom, ophthalmologists were told at their Wiesbaden congress.

The U.S. doctor who first noted the link, Gary N. Holland, reported his findings at a 1984 ophthalmologists' congress in San Francisco.

After infection by cytomegaloviruses, which include HIV, the AIDS virus, inflammation of the retina or light "cotton wool" spots at the back of the eye occurred.

Doctors who come across this complaint must bear AIDS in mind. AIDS victims who showed signs of this symptom were certainly in trouble, Dr. Holland said.

Eighty-one per cent of AIDS patients with the cotton wool eye defect died, whereas only 44 per cent of AIDS patients without this additional symptom died.

Research at the Steglitz University Hospital in Berlin has borne out these findings.

Professor Barbara Schmidt told the Wiesbaden ophthalmologists' congress the eye complaint could no longer be assumed to occur only in the late stages of AIDS and thus to be of no diagnostic value.

Steglitz doctors had found that AIDS could be diagnosed in the eye long before other characteristic immune deficiency symptoms appeared.

The telltale signs may include small white spots, exudates or cotton wool spots, on the retina, inflammation of the optical nerve and corneal herpes.

These symptoms occurred in other complaints too, Professor Schmidt said; but they were uncommon in otherwise "healthy" patients who might be HIV-positive but had yet to contract AIDS.

They were, moreover, symptoms hard to associate with other complaints and ought accordingly to be noticed by any ophthalmologist.

Cotton wool spots, occurring mainly at the rear pole of the eye and not on the periphery, must be taken as a possible sign of im-

mune deficiency, especially when diabetes mellitus could be ruled out.

Corneal herpes had for some time been known to be a possible pointer to AIDS if it occurred in a manner at all unusual.

Professor Schmidt referred at the Wiesbaden congress to observations of a handful of AIDS patients, but she felt the link was so clearly established that she called on ophthalmologists to consider AIDS as the cause of any such otherwise unexplained changes in patients' eyes.

More detailed tests were needed before eye damage could be widely used to diagnose AIDS. A link would, for instance, have to be established in a larger number of cases.

Consideration would also need to be given to how many HIV-positive patients suffered from eye damage and whether these symptoms really preceded an outbreak of the full and so far fatal disease.

The connection between eye complaints and early symptoms of AIDS was noted more or less by coincidence at the eye clinic in Steglitz.

A healthy patient with minor eye defects appeared one day at the clinic, and as his symptoms failed to fit other complaints he was AIDS-tested and found to be positive. In other words, he unknowingly had the virus.

It later became virulent. Several similar cases were noted. One AIDS patient identified in this way has since died.

The symptoms could subside and vanish, Professor Schmidt said. She mentioned a case in which the spots vanished but the patient later suffered from AIDS.

She was unable to account for the connection in her paper to the Wiesbaden congress. Findings were too new. She and her staff were working on their first publications.

It would, for instance, be interesting to see how many HIV-positive patients contracted eye complaints and how many went on to suffer from the full outbreak of AIDS — Hannoverische Allgemeine.

U.S. diplomats act out roles in fantasy land of Z

By David Brough
Reuters

ARLINGTON, Virginia — In an obscure suburban building across the Potomac from Washington, U.S. diplomats hone their skills pretending to cope with trouble in a Third World fantasy-land called Z.

Problems come thick and fast for a consular officer in Z, which is led by the pro-American benevolent despot "President Zing", has a government seal featuring a "social lion" and "a crashing bear" and boasts a national motto stating *pecunia omnia vincit* — money conquers all.

One moment, a U.S. envoy is quizzing a mentally disturbed American who has been arrested for indecent exposure, vagrancy and riding a train without a ticket.

The next, harassed officers in the visa section must cope with a line of difficult Z citizens seeking admission to the United States on various grounds.

The real-life stage for all this is an eighth-floor office of the U.S. Foreign Service Institute, housing the State Department school, which celebrates its 10th anniversary this month.

The officers are preparing for consular routine at any of the 250 or so U.S. outposts abroad.

Leo Wollemborg, who coordinates the training scheme as the "consul-general" of the make-believe office in Z, says the 26-day course teaches junior officers how to provide visa and passport services as well as handle other matters including registering illegitimate births and dealing with the bodies of Americans who die abroad.

For many trainees, Z is the last stop before a real posting.

Around 3,000 officers have taken the Z course, which Wollemborg and other old hands regard as an innovative improvement over the book-training they got as young officers.

The land of Z simulates real-life right down to be ground. It has its own geography, history and culture and its own state department "briefing book."

written by one of Wollemborg's predecessors, Z's first U.S. "consul-general," John Coffman.

The briefing book says Z is located about 500 miles west of South America.

It is bordered by X and Y, with whom it maintains "correct if frequently strained diplomatic relations."

The country's main towns are the seaport of Zug as well as Zrunch, Zeel, Ziff, Zorest and Zweet.

It was discovered in 1508 by Zenry the navigator, who was massacred by the indigenous Zruck Indians.

However, after the three ships of Captain Zook ran into the coast of Z in 1756, the explorers conquered the Indians and settled.

President Zing traces his lineage to one of Zook's crew. The humorous side of Z is intended to help the students learn. But the test situations are dead serious.

Some Z residents, for instance, will try anything to get visas to the United States and escape the poverty of their homeland, which suffers from high unemployment in rural areas.

Among several visa applicants clamouring for attention at the consulate-general on one recent day, a woman invented a story that she had to visit her sister who was at death's door in a Los Angeles hospital.

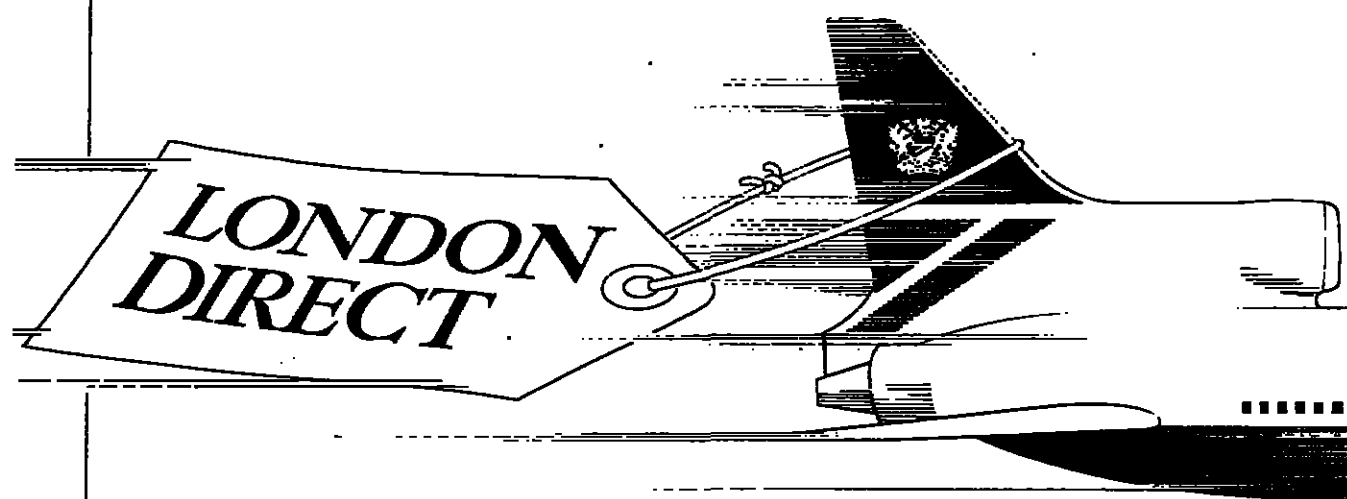
Another applicant, an American citizen, said she wanted her 17-year-old niece from Z to accompany her on a vacation to the United States. Her real motive, it turned out, was to have the girl work for low wages as a nanny to her children.

Another mock situation involved a wandering and apparently mentally ill American citizen.

The fictional character was played by an officer who gave a deliberately confused account of what had happened to him just to fox his colleague.

"There is no right or wrong in some cases," Wollemborg said. "It is just a question of how right or wrong."

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Jordan enjoyed generous rains

(Continued from page 1)

over the annual average.

Meteorology Department Director Ali Abanda, in the statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said rains registered an "increase in most parts of the Kingdom compared to previous years — specially in the southern and eastern areas."

The quantity of water accumulated since the beginning of the winter season till March 31 was, in most cases, higher than the annual average, heralding good farming conditions and natural water reserves.

According to the March figures released by the Meteorology Department, rains had in some cases doubled in the southern part of the country; 250 per cent of the annual average in Ma'an, 230 per cent in Ruweisid, 180 per cent in Aqaba, 162 per cent in the Jordan Valley, 123 per cent in Shobak, 168 per cent in Karak, 182 per cent in Azraq.

The largest quantities of rain last month — 123 millimetres — fell over the Ajloun area, followed by the Yarmouk University area with 113 millimetres, Karak 94 millimetres; Shobak 85 millimetres and Salt 82.

Perhaps for the first time in Jordan rains in March were as high in desert areas as they were in the Amman suburbs. The Amman airport area registered 38 millimetres compared to 46 millimetres in Tafleh.

Scientists claim that the globe is getting colder year after year as a result of industrial and nuclear pollution as well as natural causes such as erupting volcanoes affecting the ozone layer, reducing the amount of sunshine reaching the earth and dropping temperatures.

This year, Europe witnessed one of its coldest winters on record as did the Middle East region which was directly affected by precipitation in the southern part of the continent.

Kingdom goes on summer time

(Continued from page 1)

The prime minister said that no government offices should be lit during the hours of daylight except when they are in real need of light and that central heating systems should not be turned on if the outside temperature was more than 16 degrees centigrade. He also said that no central heating systems should be switched on before Nov. 1 or after March 15 each year under any circumstances.

The prime minister's instructions also stated that no new airconditioning equipment should be installed in government buildings.

ings and that from now on no arrangement would be made for new government buildings to have airconditioning systems, except in Aqaba and the Jordan Valley region.

The measures were taken in a bid to curb fuel consumption in all government departments in the Kingdom.

Syria switched on to summer time on March 1 and Iraq moved to summer time as of April 1.

In 1985, the first year that Jordan switched to summer time after a break of seven years, the Kingdom saved about JD 1 million in fuel import bills.

Diplomats sceptical over report

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. Peres told Israel Television: "There's a slight melting and we will certainly see it in the next few days."

Asked if the reports of increased Soviet Jewry emigration a sign of movement towards restoring relations, Mr. Peres said:

"In my opinion, yes. It will not be all that quick and not as dramatic as we would like, but definitely, based on the information I have, there's a process of change."

Avraham Tamir, director general of the Israeli foreign ministry, told Israeli army radio "the delegation is expected."

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Unseeded Italian upsets Cash in Milan tourney

MILAN, Italy (AP)—Unseeded Italian Paolo Cane upset fourth-seeded Pat Cash of Australia 6-3, 7-6 in a first-round match at the \$345,000 FILA Trophy indoor tennis tournament.

The 21-year-old Italian, ranked 42nd in the world, played consistent tennis with fine backhand passing shots to down the favored Australian, a hero of the Davis Cup championship victory over Sweden last December.

Cash netted several volleys and made a series of unforced errors to become the first of the seeded players to be eliminated from the competition, which is part of the Grand Prix circuit.

Despite his erratic play, Cash had the opportunity to even the match when he led 6-5 in the second set. He missed three consecutive set points, lost the game and then succumbed 4-7 in the tie-break.

A partisan crowd went wild at Milan's Palatrussardi Sports Palace as Cane qualified for the second round in which he will play another Australian, unseeded Broderick Dyke.

Cane, who had won the indoor tournament in Nancy, France, last Sunday, said, "It's always difficult to play Italians at home."

He argued several times with the umpire over line calls. But he conceded that he played poorly in the first set.

"I improved in the second, but it was too late," Cash said. "Cane, who won the match in one hour and 43 minutes, said the

support of the home fans boosted his morale and efficiency. Cane was coming off recent victories over Swedes Mikael Pernfors and Mats Wilander in Davis Cup competition.

In earlier first-round matches, Jan Gunnarsson of Sweden eliminated Chip Hooper, the only American entry, while seventh-seeded Jacob Hlasek of Switzerland downed Marian Wajda of Czechoslovakia.

The unseeded Swede played fine passing shots and broke Hooper's serve once in each set to defeat the American 6-4, 6-4.

Hlasek, a Czech-born player, beat Wajda 6-3, 7-6 (7-1).

In the second round, Hlasek will be pitted against Michiel Schapers of the Netherlands while Gunnarsson will play the winner of the first-round match between third-seeded Wilander and Horst Skoff of Austria.

Top-seeded Boris Becker also makes his debut in the singles competition, when he faces Stanislav Birner of Czechoslovakia.

On Tuesday night, the West German star teamed with Slobodan Zivojinovic of Yugoslavia in a first-round doubles match, easily defeating the Spanish duo of Florentino Andia and Tomas Carbonel 6-1, 6-3.

The second-round lineup also includes first-round matches between eighth-seeded Anders Jarryd of Sweden and Wally Masur of Australia, and sixth-seeded Swede Jonas Svensson against Zivojinovic.

Lendl, McEnroe fined for dropping out of tourney

CHICAGO (AP)—Ivan Lendl, the world's top-ranked player, and seventh-ranked John McEnroe have been fined \$5,000 each for dropping out of the Volvo Tennis-Chicago Tournament, an official said.

Two other players were fined \$2,400 each and a fifth is being required to pay \$1,600, under rules set by the Men's International Professional Tennis Council.

All of the fines can be appealed.

A council rule states that players may not drop out of a tournament "for any reason after the withdrawal deadline." But the rule also states that if a player withdraws late for medical reasons and chooses to appeal, he has 10 days to provide details certified by a physician.

McEnroe withdrew from the \$350,000 tournament last Friday. He reported from Brussels through his father "that a doctor had ordered him to rest" because of tendinitis in his hip, although McEnroe did complete the Belgian National Championships on Sunday, losing to Sweden's Mats Wilander in the final.

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Greek wins world's longest road race

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—Yiannis Kourous of Greece won the \$40,000 Westfield Sydney to Melbourne Ultra Marathon road race early Wednesday, crossing the finish line in Melbourne shortly after midnight.

Kourous, 31, completed the 1,060 kilometres (658 mile) course in just over five and a half days, establishing a race record.

It was Kourous' second victory in the world's longest annual road race. He also won the event in 1985.

Kourous finished more than 150 kilometres (93 miles) ahead of second placed Dick Tout of New Zealand. Englishman Patrick Macke was a further 30 kilometres (18 miles) back in third place.

Kourous collected \$13,660 for the win. He had not been headed since overtaking Tout seven hours after the race started.

Tracer, Maccabi clash in Euro basketball cup

LAUSANNE, Switzerland (R)—Israeli basketball champion Maccabi Tel Aviv and Italy's Tracer Milan will be looking to American imports to carry them to victory when they meet in the final of the men's European Champion Clubs' Cup today.

Tracer Milan rely on veteran Bob McAdoo, 37, and Ken Barlow while Maccabi, chasing its third title in 10 years, is led by top scorers Lee Johnson and Kevin Magee.

Maccabi, who won the trophy in 1977 and 1981, also boast the home-grown talent of veteran Israeli national captain Mickey Berkowitz, sharpshooter Doron Jamchee and centre Motti Aroesti.

Tracer Milan, who won its only Champion Clubs' Cup in 1966, is coached by American Dan Peterson, renowned for his defensive strategies.

McAdoo and Barlow, backed by Dino Meneghin and Mike D'Antoni, an American-born naturalized Italian, led Tracer to its second successive Italian Cup win last week.

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U.S. judge rules against Hagler in title dispute

BOSTON (R)—A U.S. federal judge cleared the way for the World Boxing Association (WBA) to fill Marvin Hagler's middleweight title by refusing to grant him an injunction to prevent the organization from stripping his title.

The WBA voted to strip Hagler of his title last month because he opted for a multi-million dollar bout with fellow American Sugar Ray Leonard, rather than make a mandatory defence against its top contender, Herol Graham of Britain, within nine months of his last fight.

Hagler, who will receive at least \$12 million for the Leonard fight, had asked for an extension of the WBA title defence rules and filed for the injunction, but U.S. District Judge Robert Keeton turned down the request, saying that there were insufficient grounds for an injunction.

Keeton ruled Tuesday that WBA regulations did not provide enough standards by which he could judge whether Hagler had a right to an exception to the nine-month limit.

"This was a disappointment but not the end of the case by any means," Hagler's attorney Morris Goldings told Reuters. He said he would decide at a later date whether to appeal the case to a higher court.

"The (Leonard) fight next Monday is still on and the fight in this courtroom is too. The case is still pending and not dismissed," said Goldings. Hagler, who is in Las Vegas training for the April 6 bout which has been sanctioned by the World Boxing Council, did not appear at the hearing.

"It pains us greatly not to have Marvin Hagler as our champion," said WBA attorney Jimmy Binns. "But it's a question of economics on his part and he exceeded our time limits."

Binns indicated that the WBA would now proceed to fill the vacant middleweight title with a bout between Graham, its top contender, and American Iran Barkley.

Goldings said by the time that fight has been scheduled "the Leonard fight will be over" and Hagler will have decided if he wants to go forward with the case.

Goldings said that forcing Hagler to make a mandatory defence was not in the best interest of boxing.

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Hamburg, Stuttgart advance to final of W. German Cup

HAMBURG, West Germany (R)—Hamburg reached the final of the West German Soccer Cup by beating Borussia Moenchengladbach 1-0 with a goal in the dying minutes of the match.

Striker Manfred Kastl scored the golden goal in 86th minute, heading the ball against a post and then bundling the rebound across the Borussia goal line.

Earlier chances for both sides were confined to near misses and the opposing goalkeepers were seldom forced into action.

Play swung from end to end with both teams showing some fine approach work, but most of the attacks broke down against the well-organized defences.

Borussia will have to rely for consolation on its UEFA Cup semifinal against Scotland's Dundee United.

Second Division Stuttgarter Kicker clinched a place in the West German Soccer Cup final when it beat First Division strugglers Fortuna Dueseldorf 3-0 in a semifinal interrupted by a pitch invasion Wednesday.

Disgruntled Fortuna fans ran on to the pitch and held up play for five minutes after the third goal scored by Dirk Kurtenbach. Frank Elser and Kazimierz Kmiecik had already put Kicker 2-0 ahead.

They will meet Hamburg in the final in West Berlin on June 20.

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Anyone interested should come to the Hays Arts Centre on Sunday April 5th at 8 p.m.

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UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF HRH PRINCESS BASMA 1987 SPRING FESTIVAL

ORGANISED BY THE JORDANIAN SAVE THE CHILDREN FUND
at the Amman Plaza Hotel on Friday 3 April 1987

FESTIVAL PROGRAMME

TIME	ACTIVITY
All Day	Bazaar... Puppet Show... Children's games... Bingo
10.00-11.00	Music played by the Army Band
11.00-11.45	Music and songs by the Ahlyia School
11.45-12.30	Japanese karate show
12.30-1.15	The first children's fancy dress show
1.15-2.00	Music and songs by the Nazareth School
2.00-2.45	National dancing by the Haya Centre
2.45-3.30	The International Folklore Dress Show
3.30-4.15	The Royal Jordanian Folklore Troupe
4.15-4.45	The second children's fancy dress show
4.45-5.15	The Royal Jordanian Folklore Troupe
5.15-5.45	Announce the winners of the lottery, fancy dress, international folklore dress "Mirage" in concert
6.00-8.00	

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THE MONEY PIT

Performances: 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, 10, 17, 24, 31

OPERA

Tel: 675573

MAIN BALWAAN



Performances: 12.00, 3.30, 6.15, 9.00 p.m.

PLAZA

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Performances: 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, 10, 17, 24, 31

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SHAWLEEN DEFIES NINGA

Performances: 12.15, 3.00, 5.00, 9.45

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets on Wednesday.

One sterling	1.6025/35	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3070/75	Canadian dollar
	1.8190/8200	West German marks
	2.0535/45	Dutch guilders
	1.5200/10	Swiss francs
	37.65/68	Belgian francs
	6.0475/0525	French francs
	1295/1297	Italian lire
	146.80/90	Japanese yen
	6.3450/3500	Swedish crowns
	6.8475/8525	Norwegian crowns
	6.8550/8600	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	418.40/90	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Equities prices were pulled off the lows achieved towards the end of the morning session by a bout of cheap buying interest and a batch of encouraging results from the insurance sector, but the market remains unsettled over the possibility of a sharply lower opening on Wall Street.

At 1418 GMT the FTSE 100 share index was 24.3 down at 1,973.3 after touching a low of 1,966.1 earlier.

Dealers said trading volumes remained relatively low and most of the activity appeared to be inter-professional, repeating the trend of recent sessions.

Nervousness over sharp declines on Wall Street stemmed from news of a 1/4 point rise in prime rates by two major U.S. banks after the U.S. close on Tuesday, eclipsing an early modest attempt to move ahead after New York's 26 point rise on the Dow Jones industrial index.

Wall Street stocks prices confirmed the market's fears, losing around 25 points in the first half hour of trading, as a third U.S. bank raised its prime rate, but it failed to produce a violent downturn on the London market although prices dipped immediately prior to the U.S. opening. At 1506 GMT the FTSE 100 share index was 34 points off at 1,963.6 and steady.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 1987

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Complete practical and monetary obligations that face you and then you can find ways to handle appointments of a more mental and logical nature.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) It's a fine day for devising a plan that can better your monetary affairs. Handle credit matters wisely.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) You can gain a personal wish easily. Seek out an expert who can give you advice about financial affairs.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) You have to handle some personal matter that requires your full attention. Think about your mate now.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Be highly romantic with your mate today. Begin by stating your aims clearly.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Be sure to handle public affairs you have promised to execute. Have a discussion with a bigwig today.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Study into a new interest that can give you added income. Listen to the views of one who has different roots than yours.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Make sure you know what those in business expect of you. Do something thoughtful for your mate.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Try to cooperate with someone who is as positive in his views as you are. Handle your duties wisely.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Try to increase your efficiency where routine duties are concerned. Logical persons can help you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Make appointments to see persons you like a great deal. Show your devotion for your mate tonight.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Focus your thoughts on an important family affair. Be more skillful at home. An evening out holds much promise.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Make a plan of action to utilize your hours more wisely. Invite persons into your home after a busy day.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he, or she, will require a fine education that will fit your progeny for a career in business. Early in life your child will be a homebody, but upon reaching adulthood will suddenly change and become most active and possibly could become an important figure.

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 1987

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Today brings the opportunity to get those of influence to go along with the ideas you most want to put across. Watch for tension, delays and obstacles in your pursuits.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Communicating with those you want to do business with in the future is wise, but later others can deter your progress.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Confer with an adviser about financial matters. You have good judgment today, so use it wisely.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) A clever friend can pave the way to gaining some cherished wish. A co-worker could be disturbing to you.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Study whatever arrangements can be made with an influential person. Focus on home affairs later.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) A good friend should accompany you to some new site where you can make progress. Be careful in motion today.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Try a new tact where some important relationship is concerned and get better results.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Change your attitude toward an associate who has fine ideas. Confer with several experts in your field.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) You are able to gain more income from regular sources. Buy a nice gift for your mate and delight this person.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Seek a recreational outlet that an associate can also enjoy and improve the relationship.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Study the duties ahead of you and gain assistance from your family. Don't ask bigwigs for favors.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Discuss a recreation with a good friend and make arrangements to get together and enjoy it.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Focus your attention on family affairs, even while out in the business world. Steer clear of a bigwig.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he, or she, is apt to have a very happy childhood and will have a fine mentality. Be sure to give this one many subjects at school and teach him; or her, not to be so restless. One who can become a philanthropist during the senior years, whether male or female.

Bahrain commercial banks introduce five-day week

BAHRAIN (R) — Bahrain Wednesday became the first Gulf Arab country to introduce an obligatory five-day working week for its commercial banks.

The new rule, effective April 1, spells an end to what had traditionally been a six-day working week for around 20 commercial banks in Bahrain.

The Bahrain Monetary Agency said the regulation, applied only to the domestic sector, was not obligatory for the island's extensive offshore banking network.

Bankers said domestic banks in the other Gulf Arab states, including the major financial centres of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, were still working a six-day week. The agency's banking services

director, Sheikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, told Reuters commercial banks would now open five mornings and afternoons a week from Sunday to Thursday instead of the customary six mornings which has included Saturday.

Bankers would therefore remain closed on Saturdays in addition to the Friday Islamic weekend.

"The idea came from the banks themselves. It will provide more opportunity for customers to use their facilities and a two-day weekend for their staff," he said.

Twenty-one of about 70 offshore banking units in Bahrain had requested and received permission to operate a five-day week, he added.

Israeli parliament passes new \$25 billion budget

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel's parliament Tuesday night passed a \$25 billion state budget that lowers the taxes of highest wage earners in an effort to stimulate workers' productivity, state radio said.

Israelis are one of the most heavily taxed peoples in the world. Under the new budget, about a quarter of which will go to defence, the highest wage earners will pay income tax of 48 per cent instead of the current 60 per cent.

The bill passed less than an hour before the start of the new fiscal year on April 1. It was held up by debates over specific programme such as education fees and social benefits for low wage earners.

The radio said the budget passed by a wide majority. Last year's budget was about \$19 billion.

In January, Israel devalued its currency, the shekel, by 9.75 per cent against the U.S. dollar and the government agreed to lower taxes of high wage-earners in an effort to stimulate exports and productivity.

The government, trade unions and industrialists also agreed at the same time to extend 18-month-old price controls until March 1988 to avert labour unrest.

As introduced, the measure would permit the public employee retirement systems to invest in general obligations of foreign governments that have not defaulted on similar securities for at least 25 years.

Existing state law permits the systems to invest in certain obligations of the Canadian government, and in those issued or guaranteed by the Asian Development Bank and similar banks of which the U.S. is a member.

U.S. operations — far less than a typical middle-income family pays. A substantial number of those companies are paying no U.S. tax at all.

"We owe it to the vast majority of honest taxpayers, in or out of the country, to ensure that everyone is paying their fair share of tax," Mr. Percy Woodard Jr., assistant IRS commissioner for international operations, told reporters.

Mr. Woodard acknowledged that tax laws are especially complex as they apply to Americans living abroad or earning income from a foreign investment. As one part of the new compliance effort, the IRS is sending agents on a tour of 85 cities in 50 countries to help Americans with their tax questions. The agency has full-time offices in 14 foreign cities.

A General Accounting Office estimate that up to 61 per cent of the 1.8 million Americans living abroad, not including those in the military, do not even file U.S. tax returns, costing the government as much as \$2.3 billion a year. Many people living in the United States fail to report income from foreign investments.

An IRS survey of 12,000 foreign-owned companies found they were paying an average tax of about one per cent on their

income, compared with an average of about 20 per cent for U.S. companies.

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Dollar panic on Egyptian black market subsides

CAIRO (R) — Panic buying of U.S. dollars on the Egyptian black market subsided and the cost of dollars reverted to near normal, dealers said.

Trading in dollars on the free market, which is technically illegal but tolerated by the government as a major source of hard currency for importers, almost stopped over the weekend as things were getting out of hand, one dealer said.

The price of dollars shot up last month from around 190 to 230 Egyptian pounds amid reports of heavy buying by state-owned banks.

One market source said the central bank held an emergency meeting on Friday and decided to take measures "to stop the madness that hit the market all last week."

The bank warned commercial banks that it would withdraw their operating licences if they broke a ban on speculation, state-owned newspapers said.

The dollar traded Tuesday at 2.03 pounds on the free market. The official rate, set daily by the central bank, fluctuates around 1.36 pounds.

Ireland adopts austerity plan

DUBLIN (R) — Ireland's new minority government, eager to put the country's debt-laden economy on the road to recovery, has introduced an austerity budget that cut public spending across the board.

Faced with a national debt that doubled in the past four years, Finance Minister Ray MacSharry warned his 3.5 million compatriots: "Conditions are extremely difficult and there is no room for soft options."

Tuesday's budget was presented to parliament just three weeks after Fianna Fail leader, Mr. Charles Haughey, scrapped back into power after failing to win an overall majority in last month's general election.

The election was called after four Labour ministers walked out of their coalition government with the Fine Gael Party in protest at proposed budget cuts.

Mr. MacSharry offered even tougher economic measures in his budget, with public spending cuts of over 300 million pounds (\$420 million).

He imposed a wage freeze on Ireland's 187,000 civil servants, insisting that any new public service jobs had to be cleared by him personally. Mortgage tax relief was cut, health and education costs trimmed and housing grant schemes axed.

Fitting hard at the cross-border trade into Northern Ireland and shopping trips to Britain, he abolished duty-free allowances for people out of the country less than 48 hours.

But above all he was trying to impress financial markets with a new get-tough approach to runaway public spending.

Bankers said the 1986 recovery in earnings stemmed partly from foreign exchange operations and trade financing. But a growing volume of trading in government securities was now also a major

source of revenue for banks. The major challenge to bank profits in Turkey came in 1980 when the government, faced with its worst financial crisis in 50 years, raised domestic interest rates sharply to fight inflation, then running at more than 100 per cent.

Mr. Deniz Gokce, an associate professor of economics at the Bosphorus University, told Reuters banks were forced to pay depositors real interest rates for the first time and profits started to fall. Previously, rates had been below inflation.

Turkey's domestic banks also partly missed out on an export drive as foreign banks moved into Istanbul and reaped the benefits of trade financing with their added expertise. The number of foreign banks has risen to 16 from just two in 1981.

Although local banks tried to follow suit, Turkey's exports declined last year to \$7.4 billion from \$7.9 billion in 1985 and bankers doubt if there is enough business to go round.

As a result, banks — including a few foreign operations — have started moving into capital market operations to broaden their earnings base and take advantage of the relaxation just over a year ago of the Istanbul stock exchange.

"When we saw that there was a demand and supply of money outside the banking system, we

could not envisage ourselves excluded from these transactions," said Mr. Osman Erk, deputy general manager of the private bank Yapi Ve Kredi Bankasi.

The number of banks active at the exchange, mainly trading government securities, went up to 28 this year from 22 when it was revived in December 1985. The exchange had laid dormant since establishment of the Turkish republic in 1923.

Medium-sized private Pamukbank announced a strong recovery in 1986 pre-tax profits to 12.9 billion lira (\$16.5 million) from 603 million in 1985 (\$770,000).

Yapi Ve Kredi Bankasi profits increased 400 per cent to 30.6 billion lira (\$39 million). Bankers said both benefited from trade financing and increased capital market operations.

Turkey's second biggest bank, the private Turiye Is Bankasi, announced a profit rise to 35 billion lira (\$45 million) from 32.3 billion (\$41 million) in 1985.

But bankers said some banks have been "window dressing" balance sheets to hide non-performing loans which they estimated at between 20 to 50 per cent of the industry's 9,026 billion lira (\$11.5 billion) in total credits.

Non-performing loans began to mount in the early 1980s as industry failed to cope with higher interest rates and started to default. But some banks continued to count loans as current

creditors' approach has been based on the view that after a period of adjustment, debtors will not only be able to return to normal servicing of outstanding debts but also meet payments currently being postponed.

It says that the existing debt strategy has focused primarily on domestic policy shortcomings within debtor countries, despite considerable evidence that changes in the external environment beyond the debtors' control are largely responsible for the sharp deterioration in their external position.

Noting that debtor countries have been charged with "significant economic mismanagement," including poor investment decisions, large budget deficits and galloping inflation rates, the report points out that no attempt has been made to explain why in such a short time period there have been a succession of serious management failures in so many countries.

The view that the weight of economic adjustment should be borne entirely by debtors, has encouraged the creditors to keep the debtors on a "tight leash," making external financing conditional on domestic policy reforms.

The impression has sometimes been given that the main purpose of external financing is to encourage policy changes rather than to transfer resources, the report says.

According to the report, the

of the banking system itself, will all depend on the ability to arrive at viable solutions to the debt problem.

According to the report, the

UNCTAD calls for new international debt strategy

GENEVA (OPECNA) — The U.N. Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has called for a new international debt strategy to enable Third World countries revive the pace of their development and service their debts.

A report prepared for UNCTAD's seventh general session, scheduled for here in July, also calls for an internationally-agreed operational set of guidelines to deal with debt problems, according to the Inter Press Service (IPS) news agency.

The package, suggests the report, should cover the respective roles of creditors and debtors in resolving debt difficulties. The economic growth priorities of indebted countries must not be lost sight of.

Apart from calls for "improvements" in the international debt strategy, the report, however, makes no specific proposals, but Mr. Kenneth Dadzie, UNCTAD secretary general, is expected to outline a number of recommendations in his separate report to the conference.

The report says that for the debtor countries growth and development prospects in the immediate and long-term future will be influenced largely by the degree of success achieved in dealing with the debt problem and the measures used.

For creditor countries, the recovery of export markets, the health of individual domestic financial institutions, and perhaps

of the banking system itself, will all depend on the ability to arrive at viable solutions to the debt problem.

According to the report, the international debt strategy evolved in the 1980s drew a sharp distinction between bilateral official development assistance (ODA) debt and other forms.

In the former case, the report notes, a number of donor countries have given outright debt relief to the poorer countries, and in a substantial number of cases past loans have been converted into grants.

The report, however, points out that for other forms of debt, the dominant view has been that while obligations on amortisation and interest can be postponed the debt "must eventually be paid in full."

It also notes that there has been rescheduling of the principal and capitalisation of interest in the context of the "Paris Club" renegotiations on official and officially-guaranteed debt for commercial bank debt, while new loans have been extended to enable debtors make to prompt interest payments.

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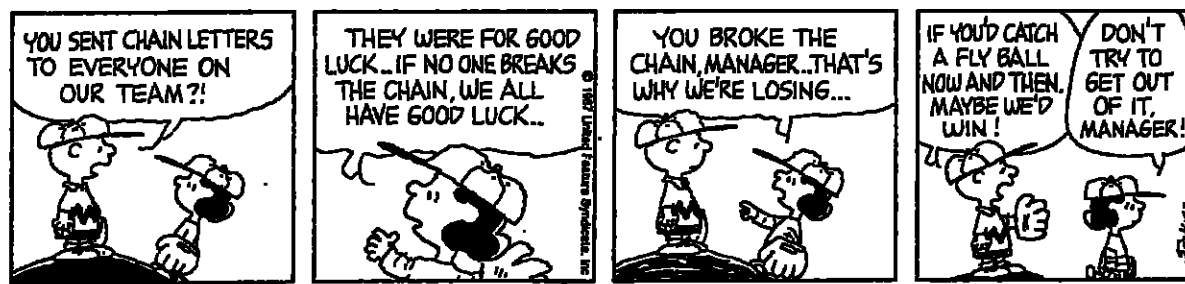
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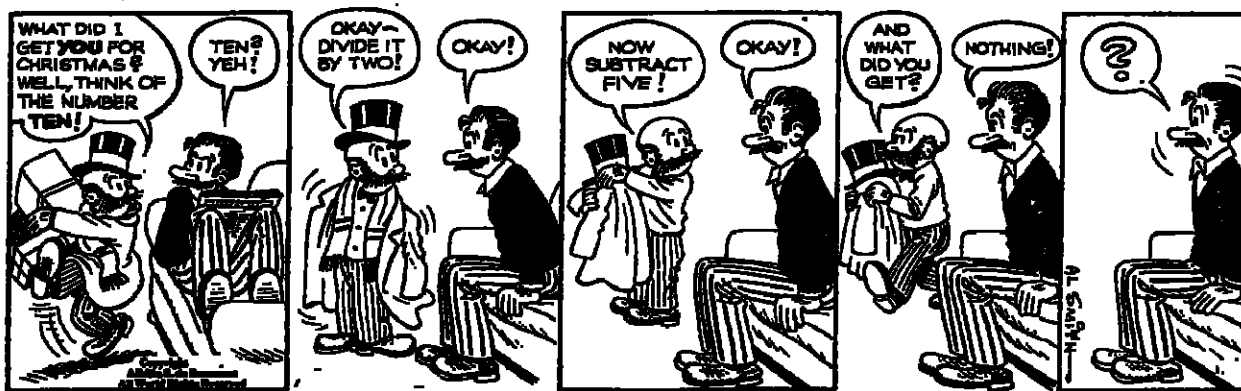
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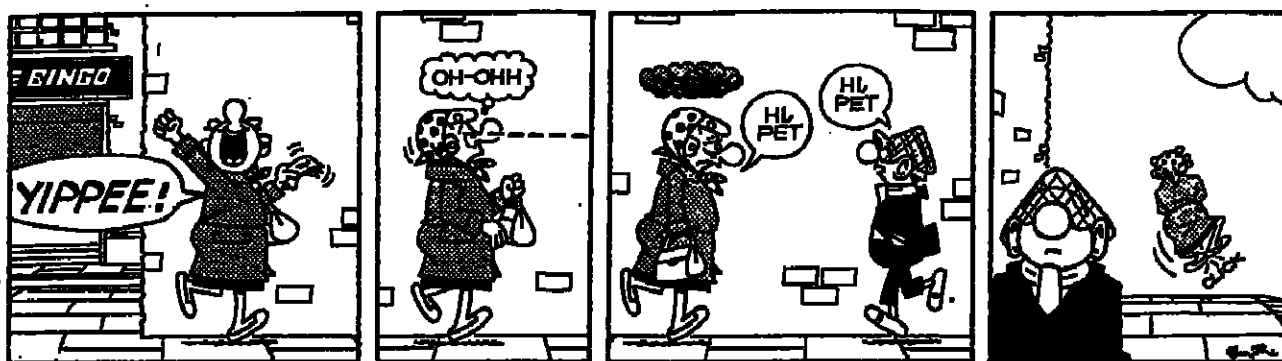
Peanuts



Mutt n' Jeff



Andy Capp



Garrisons on alert after major Salvadorean guerrilla attack

SAN SALVADOR (R) — Garrisons throughout El Salvador were on alert Wednesday after guerrillas killed 43 soldiers, including a U.S. adviser, in one of the boldest attacks of this seven-year civil war.

The army was investigating how several hundred Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) fighters managed to mass without being detected for the assault on El Paraiso military base in northern Chalatenango province early Tuesday morning, an army spokesman said.

During almost four hours of fighting they destroyed or damaged the command post, officers mess, barracks, the canteen and offices with rockets and mortar bombs.

Armed Forces Chief General Adolfo Blandon, who flew to the base by helicopter, told reporters 43 soldiers were killed and 35 wounded.

The U.S. embassy identified

the dead adviser as Staff Sgt. Gregory Fronius of the U.S. Special Forces, from Payneville, Ohio.

Fronius, one of 50 advisers training the 55,000-member military was the first to be killed in combat in El Salvador. He was hit by a grenade, Blandon said.

The wounded included Col. Gilberto Rubio, commander of the 4th brigade based at El Paraiso.

Nine guerrilla corpses were in the compound, Rolando Torres, a spokesman for the Armed Forces Press Office said many more had been found round the perimeter.

Several battalions of fresh

troops headed north to reinforce the base and scour the countryside, he said.

Other garrisons throughout the country were on alert and security was stepped up in the capital, he said.

"They are making sure it doesn't happen to them," he said.

Torres said as many as 500 guerrillas could have taken part in the attack, the most significant action since the rebels raided the country's second largest base in western San Miguel last June.

The army, which is helped by intelligence from U.S. flights from Honduras, was trying to find out why it knew nothing about the attack until the guerrillas were upon the garrison.

Diplomats in the capital doubted the guerrillas intended to take over the base because the military would then simply bomb them out with planes or artillery.

The FMLN's Radio Venceremos, which claimed the army had suffered 600 casualties, said the attack marked the start of a new offensive.

More than 62,000 people, many of them civilians, have been killed in the civil war.

The guerrillas do not usually attack in large groups because of the military's firepower, but they have shown they are capable of massing in battalion size for major actions.

The FMLN has been looking stronger and more confident this year and many diplomats and analysts had expected that an attack like Tuesday's was imminent.

Although U.S. attention is focused on the war in Nicaragua, the El Paraiso attack indicated the FMLN was still the most potent guerrilla force in Latin America, they said.

1 killed, 2 injured in Belgian court gun battle

BRUSSELS (R) — A man described by police as a dangerous criminal was shot dead and a lawyer seriously wounded in a courtroom gun battle in the Belgian city of Liege Wednesday, a Justice Ministry spokesman said.

Shooting erupted when three men on trial over a string of armed holdups were refused permission to leave the courtroom to go to the toilet, reporters at the scene said.

A woman suddenly brandished a grenade and one of the defendants, Jose Cokaiko, seized a policeman before being fatally wounded.

The Belgian News Agency Belga said the woman had smuggled a pistol into the courtroom.

The spokesman said a lawyer was gravely wounded in the head and was undergoing surgery in hospital. A woman was also in-

jured but less seriously. He said earlier two people, including a court official, had been killed.

As bullets flew across the courtroom, officials and members of the public threw themselves to the ground, reporters at the scene said.

Around 20 people were in the court for the case, which arose from a hostage taking and a series of armed holdups.

The three men in court were described by police as hardened and dangerous criminals.

A fourth defendant is still on the run after escaping from prison and was being tried in his absence.

The man, known as "little Robert," has been billed in the press as Belgium's most wanted man after a series of daring jailbreaks.

Filipino kidnappers free Japanese businessman

MANILA (R) — A kidnapped Japanese businessman freed late Tuesday night after four months in captivity Wednesday cracked jokes with President Corason Aquino as the Tokyo government moved to ease strained relations with Manila.

Japan marked the release of Nobuyuki Wakaoji by lifting a warning against tourism in the Philippines and saying it now hoped for improved relations with Manila.

Wakaoji who took a bus to freedom after being dumped on a suburban street, was kept bound hand and foot for much of his 136 days of imprisonment, officials said.

The 53-year-old Wakaoji was cheerful and joked with Mrs. Aquino when the two met for 20 minutes late Wednesday, presidential spokesman Teodoro Benigno said. Wakaoji was taken by helicopter to the meeting at the presidential palace after health checks at an undisclosed hospital.

Wakaoji told Mrs. Aquino: "My main problem was how to kill time." Mr. Benigno said.

The normally grey-haired businessman said the kidnappers had dyed his hair black before releasing him near a church on the outskirts of Manila Tuesday night, apparently to make him look younger.

He told Mrs. Aquino he was

held in a warehouse in a mountainous area and lived on a diet of fish, rice and pork, hearing only the constant sound of taped music and the occasional barking dog.

"I ate everything. I was afraid to starve," Mr. Benigno quoted him as saying.

Wakaoji told Mrs. Aquino that tape-recordings, in which he said he was ill and appealed for help in a weak and shaking voice, had been faked on the orders of his kidnappers, Mr. Benigno said.

The businessman said he had been knocked unconscious by his captors after being forced from his car during his abduction.

Mr. Benigno said Wakaoji would return to Japan Thursday. He added that Mrs. Aquino had told Wakaoji: "It was a terrible experience (but) later on you will look at it as beneficial. You should be the next president of Mitsui."

The kidnap of Wakaoji, head of the Philippine operations of the giant Mitsui Trading Company, had strained relations between Manila and Tokyo, hurting tourism and holding up promised Japanese investment in the Philippine economy.

Japan issued a warning in January to tourists, saying it might not be safe for them to visit the Philippines, but Foreign Minister Tadashi Kuranari lifted the notice Wednesday.

Former Soviet worker claims 15,000 deaths at Chernobyl

WASHINGTON (AP) — A former Soviet factory worker says hospital workers in Kiev told him 15,000 people have died from radiation poisoning in the Chernobyl nuclear disaster, according to a published report Wednesday.

The Washington Times quoted Igor Gerashchenko as saying in testimony before Congress on Tuesday that patients listed as released from hospitals actually had died.

The death toll given by Soviet

officials and by U.S. doctors who have worked in the Soviet Union following the April 1986 accident is 31.

Robert Gale, a University of California at Los Angeles medical professor who has made several trips to help Soviet doctors, said last year that about 500 people had been hospitalized as of November as a result of the disaster. He confirmed the official Soviet death toll of 31.

Federal regulators close Pennsylvania nuclear plant

WASHINGTON (R) — Owners of a Pennsylvania nuclear power plant where federal regulators charge operators were sleeping on the job have said they have begun complying within an order that it should be shut down indefinitely.

Ron Harper, a spokesman for Philadelphia Electric Co. (PE), said the company was obeying the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) order earlier in the day to shut the company's Peach Bottom nuclear plant, about 64 kilometres west of Philadelphia, within 36 hours.

"Sleeping while on duty in the control room demonstrates a total disregard for performing licensed duties and a lack of appreciation for what those duties entail," the NRC said in its order to the Philadelphia-based utility to indefinitely shut the plant.

A second unit already was shut for refuelling, the NRC said, adding that neither unit may be restarted without the commission's approval.

It was the first such order by the federal watchdog agency since the 1979 accident at three mile island, also in Pennsylvania. The NRC said it learned seven days ago that control room operators at Peach Bottom had regularly been observed sleeping while on duty, particularly during late-night shifts.

"We had inspectors on the site around the clock within two hours," NRC spokesman Karl Abraham said. They investigated the reports and concluded there was "sufficient reasons" for the shutdown order.

In a telephone interview, Harper said the company will immediately begin its own probe of the NRC allegations.

Surrogate mother loses all rights to 'Baby M'

HACKENSACK, N.J. (R) — The surrogate mother of "Baby M" has lost all her rights to the child in a court ruling that gave the infant to the couple who contracted for her birth.

Mary Beth Whitehead, the 29-year-old housewife who bore the girl one year ago after being artificially inseminated with the father's sperm, stayed away from Tuesday's ruling in a New Jersey family court.

"She wanted to take the news, whatever it was, in her home," said Harold Cassidy, one of her attorneys.

The court ruled that the child should be placed in the custody of William Stern, the natural father, and his wife Elizabeth, who was made the child's adoptive mother in Wednesday's ruling. They call the child "Melissa."

Mrs. Whitehead was denied custody and barred from visiting the child, whom she had called "Sara."

The Sterns had sought the surrogate solution because Mrs. Stern, a 41-year-old pediatrician, feared that pregnancy would exacerbate her multiple sclerosis.

CIA infiltrates Honduran government, general says

TEGUIGALPA, Honduras (AP) — The former armed forces chief has alleged that the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) has placed agents in the government to ensure that Honduras continues backing U.S. aid to the Nicaraguan rebels.

Gen. Walter Lopez Reyes, who was removed from post in February 1985, told a news conference that the CIA "is prepared to control even the secret services of the Honduran police and to infiltrate all the government" of President Jose Azcona Hoyo.

"Many politicians have been bribed by the CIA as part of an effort to control the general situation of the country to benefit the operations of the Nicaraguan counter-insurgents in Honduras," Gen. Lopez Reyes said.

He accused armed groups of contra rebels of being involved in the assassination and disappearance of "numerous people for

being against their mode of operation."

There was no immediate government comment.

The Honduran Committee for the Defence of Human Rights says that since 1982, some 300 people have been killed for political reasons and that another 130 have disappeared after being captured by the secret police.

Gen. Lopez Reyes, 45, was at one time considered the country's most powerful man. In March 1984, he wrested control of the armed forces from Gen. Gustavo Alvarez Martinez. But his colleagues ousted him in February 1985, and he left the military at the end of last year.

Honduras is a key U.S. ally in Central America. The U.S.-supported contra rebels operate from bases in southern Honduras in their effort to overthrow the leftist Sandinista government in Nicaragua.

Dhaka rejects fresh poll

DHAKA (R) — Bangladesh Prime Minister Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury Wednesday attacked a call by intellectuals for fresh elections and said such a move would plunge the country into anarchy.

"If their demands were accepted the country would be thrown into political uncertainty and unprecedented anarchy," the prime minister said in a statement.

The demands for elections and an interim administration were made in a statement last Monday by 31 leading intellectuals, including former government ministers, ambassadors and lawyers.

They said democracy in Bangladesh had become a farce and a caretaker government should be formed with men of unimpeachable honesty.

Mr. Chowdhury called the intellectuals "a band of people with unsound minds."

"Their acts amount to attempts to sabotage the country's constitution and negate progress made under the leadership of President (Hossain Mohammad) Ershad," he added.

Deputy Prime Minister Moudud Ahmad said their demands were "childish and untenable."

Gen. Ershad, who seized power in a bloodless coup in March, 1982, and imposed martial law, restored civil rule after his election as president last October. His opponents say that poll and previous parliamentary elections were rigged.

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Marines hit S. Korean coast in assault exercise

SEOUL (R) — About 5,000 U.S. and South Korean Marines hit South Korea's east coast in a joint naval exercise, an American military spokesman said.

The operation, which also included 8,000 other Marines, 13,000 sailors, the U.S. aircraft carrier Ranger, amphibious assault vessels, fighters and ground-attack aircraft, was part of a 10-week military exercise by the United States and South Korea.

The joint manoeuvres, billed as the largest in the non-Communist World, are conducted annually by the two allies.

About 200,000 South Korean and U.S. servicemen are taking part in this year's army, air force and navy war games which continue until the end of this month.

"The naval exercise provided U.S. and Republic of Korea sea service personnel training in amphibious warfare and various other activities under simulated battle conditions," a South Korean Defence Ministry official said.

The exercises have been denounced by Pyongyang as a rehearsal for an attack on North Korea. Seoul and Washington say the manoeuvres are purely defensive.

Inquiry sought over deaths of 3 U.K. defence experts

LONDON (R) — Three men working on sensitive defence projects have died violent deaths in Britain in eight months, a British opposition party spokesman said in a call for an official inquiry.

On Monday David Sande, 38, who had just completed a three-year contract for the Esams Electronics Firm, a Division of the Marconi Company, died in a ball of flame when his car went into a wall in Basingstoke, southern England.

Police were already probing the deaths of two other Marconi employees and a fourth has been missing for 12 weeks.

Social Democratic Party defence spokesman John Cartwright urged the government to investigate the deaths and disappearance.

In a letter to Defence Procurement Minister Lord Trefgarne,

Cartwright said Tuesday he was increasingly concerned about the possibility of links between the four cases.

"I do not wish to be accused of inventing plots more suited to a TV thriller than real life," he said. "But I think the circumstances of these four cases and the possible links between them stretch the possibility of coincidence too far."

Police found two cans each containing five gallons (23 litres) of petrol in the boot of Sande's car, which also had 10 gallons (45 litres) in the tank.

Detectors said they were working on the theory that Sande's death might have been a suicide. They did not intend to liaise with detectives in Bristol, south-west England, and the central England Derbyshire area who are investigating the other cases.

COLUMNS 7&8

British newspapers spoof readers

LONDON (AP) — An 18th-century snapshot found in the remote outer Fokus Mountains of Japan. A Greek peasant's discovery of Venus De Milo's arms. Margaret Thatcher and Mikhail Gorbachev kissing on a park bench in Moscow. It was April 1 — a traditional day for practical jokes and hoaxes — and British newspapers on Wednesday unloaded a barrage of deadpan exclusives that rightly defied belief. In a front-page report, the Guardian announced the discovery of the world's oldest photograph — believed to have been taken by Japanese rebel scientist Yoshimoto Hishida in 1782, half a century before photographic experiments began in Europe. A camera company advertisement inside the newspaper showed the misty black and white print, inside the newspaper showed the misty black and white print, apparently of a Japanese man wearing ceremonial robes and said to have been hidden for almost two centuries in the remote Outer Fokus Mountains. The rival Independent revealed an even older artistic find with news that a Greek peasant on the island of Melos has discovered the missing arms of the world's most famous statue — the Venus De Milo. The Daily Mirror, in an exclusive photo report, put a new slant on East-West relations with a montage that appeared to show Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev kissing on a park bench. Other Mirror photos of Mrs. Thatcher's current Soviet visit appear to show Mrs. Thatcher tickling Mr. Gorbachev under the chin and the two walking with his arm around her.

Drug addicts surrender after holdup

SALAMANCA, Spain (R) — Two drug addicts who held hostages in a failed bank robbery in this central Spanish city surrendered after police refused to give them heroin, police sources said. The two robbers, who told police they were addicts, earlier threatened to kill their three hostages unless they were given 10 grammes of heroin. An accomplice, captured outside the branch of the Banco Espanol de Credito, told police the robbers had been without heroin for 13 hours.

Belgian prince caught speeding

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP) — Officials would not comment Wednesday on whether Prince Laurent, who is third in line to the Belgian throne, will be prosecuted for driving 220 kmph (137 mph) on a highway last week. Various newspaper reports said police spotted a BMW 325i racing toward Brussels on Friday night on the six-lane E-40 highway between the Belgian coast and the capital. They gave chase about 13 kilometres outside of Brussels but failed to catch up with the car that slalomed in and out of slower traffic, until it stopped outside the royal palace. When police asked for the driver's papers, they learned it was Prince Laurent, the 23-year-old nephew of King Baudouin, newspapers reported. Prince Laurent is third in line to the Belgian throne after his older brother, Prince Philippe, and his father, Prince Albert, the brother of King Baudouin. The king has no children.

British police car ambushed

WOLVERHAMPTON, England (R) — A police car was fire-bombed in the central England town of Wolverhampton in an ambush laid with hoax emergency calls, police said. Police officers summoned by a call were checking an empty flat when petrol bombs were hurled at their unoccupied car. There were no injuries. The incident followed the death of a young black man in Wolverhampton last month as police were trying to arrest him. The death spawned a weekend of street violence in the town and police said tension remained high.

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

Edited by Herb Ettenson

SKOAL

By Olive Dunn

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Diagramless

19 X 19. By Roger Coombs

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